Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Castro on Socialism, Capitalism; Relations With Colombia

FL1108160093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro Ruz, who will end a visit to Colombia today, has reaffirmed that before renouncing our principles we will die. He also said that capitalism has failed while socialism is young.

The Cuban leader talked with the press on the evening of 10 August after spending 24 hours in Cartagena, where he had an extensive meeting with President Gaviria. The foreign ministers of the two countries confirmed that the two presidents discussed political, economic, and social topics relating to the realities of their respective countries.

Asked if the decriminalization of the possession of foreign exchange can restore capitalism in Cuba, Castro replied: I do not believe that will change our ideology. I do not believe it will change our principles because before renouncing our principles we would prefer to die.

Asked if he thinks socialism has failed, Castro said it is capitalism and imperialism that have failed.

The commander in chief expressed the opinion that it is necessary to seek new models and other systems that help to truly develop true justice and brotherhood among men. He added that socialism is just beginning, is very young, while capitalism failed some time ago.

Castro also said that he is happy that in recent times many opportunities for political, democratic struggle have emerged in Latin America.

Asked if the presence of guerrillas is still justified in Colombia, Castro said: I am not a judge, and I do not want to meddle in this country's internal affairs. I think Colombians have to resolve that.

Castro said relations with Colombia have improved and should continue to improve. However, he said, there will be no diplomatic relations soon because one should not speak in haste.

Castro Claims 'No Longer Blockaded by Latin America'

FL1208021693 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] We have just received in our newsroom further reports from Colombia on the activities of our commander in chief in Cartagena de Indias, where he is ending a two-day visit today. A news conference for the local and foreign press was preceded by a tour in the company of President Cesar Gaviria.

[Begin Castro recording] We are no longer a country blockaded by Latin America. We are a country that has relations, normal relations, with the greater part of the Latin American nations and this has allowed us to apply the principle of not meddling in the internal affairs of other countries. [end recording]

At this news conference, Fidel confirmed Cuba's choice of socialism and its determination to resist for however long may be necessary. He also reiterated that any negotiation with the United States should be without prior conditions.

Fidel said that whatever measures may be necessary to safeguard the Revolution, independence, and the accomplishments of socialism will be adopted. In this connection, he pointed out that with regards to the difficult economic situation, no shock measures such as those taken in other places will be taken in Cuba. He explained that in the midst of the shortages, and unlike what happens in other countries, in Cuba resources are distributed equitably. He then gave as an example the fact that not a single school or hospital in Cuba has been shut down and said that conditions of social justice will be maintained to the maximum.

Castro Comments on Guerrilla Movement, Autonomy

FL1208020393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] As we mentioned, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro held a news conference today in Colombia. We have obtained fragments of the conference, which was facilitated to Radio Rebelde's "Exclusive" program by Radio Caracol Nacional. When he was questioned on what he expects of President Gaviria and his country with regard to the situation Cuba is facing, Fidel said:

[Begin Castro recording] We hope to resist as long as necessary, using the courage and heroism of our people who are aware that they are defending a just cause in the face of a criminal and inhumane blockade. We are expecting nothing special from Colombia. We hope to (?strengthen) relations, toward which we have been working up to this point. We hope for their constructive participation as well as the efforts that the Latin American countries can make in the interest of reducing existing tensions between the United States and Cuba. We hope that they support the struggle against the blockade [words indistinct]. We did not come to Colombia to ask for anything special nor expecting something special from Colombia. [end recording]

A REUTERS news agency correspondent asked whether Fidel feels disconsolate knowing that the guerrilla abandoned its struggle, to which Fidel answered:

[Begin Castro recording] Are you talking about all the guerrillas of the world or the Colombian guerrilla? I regret that I cannot become a judge of the Colombian guerrilla. I believe that only you, the people of Colombia, can judge this because it is a domestic issue of Colombia. I believe that I have no frustrations because politics is

not a girlfriend with whom you could feel frustrated. Politics is a duty and a job. I believe each one is responsible for his actions, deeds, and political decisions.

We have always respected the autonomy and absolute independence of the revolutionary movement in all parts of the world, even in determined moments when we have supported them. We have supported the struggle for liberation in (?Asia). Not only did we support them materially, we supported them with our own blood—the struggle of the Angolan people for their independence and in other African countries such as the struggle of the Saharans. We could mention numerous other examples. But we have always had absolute respect for them, without seeking any form of hegemony and without trying to find fault with anyone. Everyone is responsible for their actions.

We are not the head of any guerrilla movement. If we are not judges.... [pauses] heads of these movements, neither should we judge what the guerrilla movements do or what the political parties do. It would be as if I were to come here and begin judging the programs, goals, and behavior of the [word indistinct] parties. I believe it would be disrespectful and we would be getting involved in (?domestic issues). That is the same attitude and view we maintain with the guerrilla movements, which have existed not only in Colombia, but in many countries of Latin America and the world. [end recording]

Committee To Emphasize Drafting ANPP Operations Law

FL1108200393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by Gisela Bel Heredia]

[Text] A law on the operation of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] will be one of the immediate priorities of the Standing Committee for Constitutional and Legal Affairs [Comision Permanente de Asuntos Constitutionales y Juridicos]. Committee president Dr. Ramon de la Cruz Ochoa explained that regulations currently in effect require review as part of the ongoing effort to improve the top legislative body.

[Begin De la Cruz recording] We have decided that this should not be a matter of regulations. Instead, there should be a law because of its implications, its importance to the country, and because one way or another, it also affects other state institutions and the government as a whole. Above all, it effects even the country's social and economic life thereby going beyond the confines of the ANPP. We have proposed that this be a law rather than just regulations and we have begun to work in that direction.

There is another very important thing that is lacking in our country. There is an ANPP agreement that deals—in an incomplete manner, in my opinion—with the problems of legislative procedure. This law on the assembly would have to deal with the entire issue of legislative procedure; in other words, what happens from the moment a bill is presented in the ANPP until it is approved. All the steps that have to be taken, all the requirements, would have to be included in this law on ANPP operation. [end recording]

De la Cruz Ochoa said there are plans to present the draft law in the next regular sessions in December so very intensive work is needed.

ANPP 'Local Governing Bodies' Commmittee Formed

FL1208004093 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The standing committee of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] in charge of local governing bodies was formed today. The first official activity of the ANPP's standing committee in charge of the local bodies of the People's Government began today with a visit to Havana Province, the first province to render an account to the ANPP during this mandate.

This afternoon, at the government seat in Havana, the provincial assembly and the administrative council welcomed the deputies. For two days, the committee will tour several of the province's municipalities in order to take a look at the work being done by the People's Councils; health, educational, and cultural institutions; and production and service groups.

The standing committee is presided over by Deputy Iran Gonzalez, president of the government in Havana, and other deputies from all over the country. [sentence as heard]

Among the tasks of this committee is that of evaluating the assessment processes that are to begin in September as well as the activity of the People's Councils. Also among its tasks will be to check the mechanisms for monitoring and overseeing the work of the administrative councils.

Commentary on Support Castro Receives Abroad

PA1208003893 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Aug 93

["Commenting on the News" by Miguel de la Guardia Hernandez]

[Text] Anti-Cuban radio stations, fully embarked on the most fierce and virulent counterrevolutionary attacks, continue to insist on portraying the Cuban revolution as the worst repressive regime in history and systematically deny its democratic nature. To be sure, one cannot expect the spokesmen of imperialism to be awash in praise, but one notices a heightened aggressiveness that can only be accounted for by the despair and powerlessness of those who have gnashed their teeth trying to liquidate the Cuban Revolution.

Fidel Castro's visit to Bolivia will remain an historic event for our people. In La Paz, the outpouring of affection toward Fidel Castro and the Cuban people are food for thought. Every time the Cuban president leaves his country he is welcomed with fondness and admiration by other peoples. Recent examples can be seen in the Ibero-American summits held in Mexico, Spain, and Brazil, where the top Cuban leader made direct contact with the people and received special distinctions and tributes. As repressive a regime as the one Cuba's enemies portray can ill arouse such support and affection among masses from different areas.

To what can one attribute this admiration and affection for Fidel and Cuba? It is not difficult to explain. Fidel and his people have not surrendered to the most powerful and influential government in the world; a government that has been totally hostile for over 30 years and is used to the subservience and unconditional obedience of those who had served as instruments to carry out its imperialist policy all over the world.

Then, there is also, first and foremost, the work the revolution has carried out for its people in the fields of public health, education, social assistance, full employment, and many more gains, which in many Third World countries are a mere distant dream. The Cuban revolution has turned those things into tangible realities and to do so it has had to provoke the ire of the worst enemy one can have today in the world. Following the imperialist dictates of the United States, the Cuban people would never have been able to get what they now have in terms of social security, independence and national sovereignty, dignity as citizens, and well-grounded hopes.

The U.S. Government and its different administrations have maintained a strong economic embargo against Cuba and a systematic policy of hostility, the impact of which has now been intensified following the collapse of the so-called socialist camp. It has, however, not been able to overcome Cuban resistance nor will it have its way.

Commentary on Castro Visits to Brazil, Bolivia

PA1108194393 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] The visits to Brazil and Bolivia by high-ranking delegations, headed by President Fidel Castro, have contributed to developing three basic aspects of Cuba's foreign policy. With Cuban participation at the Third Ibero-American Summit held in the Brazilian city of Salvador and the presidential inauguration in Bolivia, favorable conditions to explain the situation in Cuba were fostered so it could outline its priorities.

Since the situation in this country has been greatly distorted abroad owing to manipulation by the international news media, direct exchanges with peoples and presidents is an unparalleled way to explain Cuba's priorities. One of those premises is the search for support for the demand that the United States end its economic embargo, create greater awareness on the importance of Latin American integration, and strengthen ties between Cuba and her neighbors.

In Salvador, Cuba got an implicit statement rejecting the United States' restrictive measures against Cuba. In Bolivia, labor, student, and political sectors adopted a similar stance. In one of his first statements on foreign policy, new Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aradibar confirmed his government opposes any pressure tactics and supported solutions stemming from the will of the peoples of Latin America. In Brazil and Bolivia, Cuban President Fidel Castro, in turn, stressed that Latin American union was inevitable in the face of the pressure from a unipolar world.

Speaking before Bolivian union leaders and peasants, the Cuban leader indicated we must unite if we want to find a place in the world. If that is not so, Fidel Castro asked, what will become of Latin America in the face of the United States, the powerful European union, and the Southeast Asian community. Although Cuba knows many Latin American economies are pressured and cannot trade with Cuba as they would wish, the fact remains that steps were taken to explore exchange in areas of mutual interest with the visit of the high-level delegations to Brazil and Boliva. Cuba feels greater interrelation among Latin Americans brings down the barriers hampering rapprochement that still exist because they respond to interests alien to the region.

Commentator Reacts to Refusal to Refuel Castro Airplane

FL1108192093 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Jose Armas commentary: "A Political Matter, Or A Psychiatry Case?]

[Text] Incredible as it may seem, the anti-Cuban media which operate in the United States, and not just there, had a field day yesterday, 10 August. The uproar they made greatly exceeded the racket that would occur in a chicken coop if a clumsy thief entered it at night. The reason: The Esso and Texaco companies, U.S. companies of course, refused to provide fuel for the Cubana de Aviacion airplane, which Comrade Fidel Castro is traveling in in South America. The two companies, which operate in Cartagena, Colombia, used the prohibitions contained in the Torricelli Law as a pretext.

The matter would not be worth mentioning, except to demonstrate that the phobia generated by the U.S. blockade against our country has gone from being a political matter, if it ever was, to being a case of psychiatry. It also goes to show that Comrade Fidel is not exaggerating when he says that if Cuba goes anywhere to purchase even an aspirin, the U.S. groups follow with dollars to give as bribes or using threatening language to

intimidate. In economic terms, this is very harmful to Cuba but that is how things are, and this is part of the reality that we have to face every hour of every day to survive with our principles intact.

Another matter is the absurd and shameful incident occurring in Laredo involving members of the Pastors for Peace movement. The authorities continue to prevent those generous people, full of human sensitivity, from sending a bus to Cuba to be used to provide service to women and senior citizens. They allege that Cuba could use the vehicle for military purposes. That is another reason to refer this to the field of psychiatry.

We have cited two events, the two simplest, to make it clear just how far the hysteria against Cuba, its revolution, and its unbending people permeates official Washington, or at least a part of it. Nevertheless, the airplane will return to Havana from wherever it may be, just as the bus being held in Laredo will surely arrive in our country some day.

Commentary on Need to Revamp Agricultural Policies

FL1108133793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Aug 93

[Orlando Contreras commentary]

[Text] As is quite well known, the first major technological revolution in the history of mankind occurred with the beginning of agriculture. Man stopped being a collector of the fruits of nature and instead began to cultivate them. Later, he stopped being a mere hunter or fisherman and began to breed animals so as to better guarantee a source of food and clothing.

Man's social history virtually began at that point. In our days, one of the major, and worsening, gaps between rich countries and poor or underdeveloped countries is rooted in agricultural productivity, with one additional negative factor. Today, for various reasons, that could not be explained in such a brief space. Population concentration in cities is not unique to the developing countries. However, whereas in rich countries with a high level of agricultural productivity, the urban population density is a coherent phenomenon; in developing countries, it occurs because of a lack of opportunity in the rural areas, since the cities offer more job opportunities and obviously higher standards of living and possibilities of advancement.

In rich countries, the difference in the quality of life in the city and the countryside has become narrower. The process has worked in reverse in most of the poor countries with dependent economies. In the rich countries, surplus agricultural production is subsidized by the state; in poor countries, where a market economy is imposed, many peasants go bankrupt when prices decline. Vast historical experience acquired in agriculture, one of the oldest social endeavors, indicates that in order for agriculture to be modern and productive, it requires mechanization, applied science, technology, and a sustained narrowing of the gap between the cities and the countryside. The peasant must love the land and love farming but there must also be real incentives for new generations to assume their parents' values.

Cuba's experience in developing an agriculture that is primarily state-run, yet with a strong presence of production cooperatives and private or individual farmers, is unprecedented in this world. Our agroindustrial success in large-scale operations such as producing sugarcane, rice, and citrus fruits has been obvious. However, it is also obvious that, even though we have increased production levels in many other areas, we have not, in normal or quasi-normal periods—the Yankee blockade has always been there and is a factor that cannot be underestimated—we have not, I repeat, been able to become self-sufficient in producing the diversity of food that is indispensable to feed a population that has doubled in 30 years.

Under conditions of a special period, with a minimum supply of fuel, with almost no nitrogenized fertilizer, pesticides and chemical fungicides, with the collapse of transportation for reasons known to us all, we cannot do now what we were unable to do when we had such resources. Hence, it seems imperative that we adapt our agriculture to the new realities. Just as we have made economic and financial concessions that we would not have wished to make, but that were imposed by reality in order to save the accomplishments of socialism, the fatherland, and the Revolution, we must take certain measures in the area of agricultural policy.

Correction to Castro Moncada Barracks Speech

PA3107185693

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Castro Gives Speech at Moncada Barracks Anniversary," published in the 27 July Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 3-12:

Page 6, column one, second paragraph, fourth sentence, reads... plenty as well, and other groups of citizens who migrated... (rewording)

Page 6, column two, sixth paragraph, second sentence, reads... the depenalization of possessing convertible foreign currency. [new paragraph] This has been... (rewording).

Page 7, column one, fifth paragraph, first sentence, reads... to buy your ration card with foreign currency... (correcting word).

Page 8, column one, first sentence, reads... comments from everyone. I thought Cubans basically opined about politics. Of course Cubans do give their opinions about politics. All their life... (rewording)

Page 8, column one, fifth paragraph, third sentence, reads... distribute through the ration card system? Where do... (rewording)

Page 9, column one, first paragraph, sixth sentence, reads... of this? What leftist mind could have ever dreamed of such a dramatic and tragic situation? Did the world gain anything with the disappearance of the USSR? It would have... (rewording)

Page 9, column one, second paragraph, fourth sentence, reads... per year, 700 billion tons...[pauses] cubic meters of gas,... (correcting figure)

Page 9, column one, third paragraph, third sentence, reads... other motors use. The same applies to their airplanes. However, I am... (providing missing sentence)

Page 9, column one, last paragraph, fourth sentence, reads... in a bulldozer. I have fought this. [laughter] We find... (providing missing sentence)

Page 10, column two, second paragraph, first sentence, reads... field, in the biotechnological aspect. The research... (correcting word)

Page 10, column two, third paragraph, third sentence, reads... Starting with the toxic-nutritional theory as being... (correcting word)

* More on Usefulness of Medical Teams

93CA0162A Havana GRANMA in Spanish 8 Jul 93 p 8

[Article by Alberto Nunez Betancourt; for related reporting, see FBIS-LAT-93-130 pp 3-4]

[Text] The history of Cuban medical assistance began in 1963, when 29 physicians, 4 stomatologists, 14 technicians, and 18 nurses traveled to the cities and towns of Algeria and made their humanitarian mark in a postwar period.

Over the past 30 years, some 60 million persons in the world have been aided by Cuban doctors, technicians, and nurses, notes Dr. Jaime Davis, director of medical assistance for the Ministry of Public Health. He adds that because of our current economic situation, it is no longer possible to continue our free medical cooperation. Cuba currently has 3,000 health professionals working in 35 countries.

"The high level of skills of Cuban health care workers is internationally recognized, even in developed countries that also seek our presence."

The work of Cuban medical teams abroad has been highly useful. They have taken clinical and surgical assistance and our wide experience in health care to the most remote corners of the universe.

Generations of Cuban doctors have also seen diseases that are unknown or have been eradicated in Cuba. They have broadened their knowledge, organized and directed health services, and told the story of the Cuban Revolution.

Persons benefiting from such medical care see that Cuban professionals are able to identify with the people from the beginning. This makes it much easier to form ties between nations, even if formal diplomatic relations do not exist.

Another form of technical cooperation which Cuba has contributed to the Third World is the training of intermediate- and high-level personnel on the island. Over the past three decades, more than 4,000 foreign students on scholarships have graduated from Cuban institutions of higher learning.

Cuba is determined to maintain the most human form of cooperation: medical care.

Countries Where Cuba Now Provides Medical Assistance

1. Algeria 2. Angola 3. South Africa 4. Belize 5. Benin 6. Botswana 7. Brazil 8. Burkina Faso 9. Burundi 10. Cape Verde 11. Ecuador 12. Spain 13. Ghana 14. Guinea Bissau 15. Guinea (Conakry) 16. Equatorial Guinea 17. Guyana 18. Iran 19. Italy 20. Falkland Islands 21. Mozambique 22. Namibia 23. Nicaragua 24. Peru 25. Saudi Arabia 26. Russia 27. Sao Tome and Principe 28. Seychelles 29. Sri Lanka 30. Tanzania 31. Uganda 32. Venezuela 33. Yemen 34. Zambia 35. Zimbabwe

* Veterans' Group Leader Explains Purpose of Organization

93CA0162B Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Jul 93 p 3

[Interview with Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado by Elsa Blaquier; date and place not given; first seven paragraphs are GRANMA introduction]

[Text] Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado is now a member of the National Organizing Committee of the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution (ACRC).

At the age of 19, Santamaria Cuadrado went to work as a carpenter's helper. He joined the 26 de Julio Movement when it was founded and served as a delegate from Matanzas Province. He actively supported the Grannma landing in the western provinces. He did a stint at the Model Prison on the Isle of Pines, but upon his release in 1957, he joined the Rebel Army, serving in the General Command of the Sierra Maestra. He completed one internationalist mission and became a member of the party's Central Committee when it was formed in 1965. For 20 years, he held the post of alternate for the minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and as head of the MGR [Revolutionary Navy] and has been awarded numerous medals and decorations, national and foreign. He embarks upon this new task enthusiastically and happily explains the conditions that led to the emergence of this budding organization.

From its earliest years, the revolution has concerned itself with our soldiers, not only politically, but also by providing social security, which is regulated by law.

Over the years, however, veterans have organized in various ways. For example, numerous activities have been sponsored by the members of different battalions of militiamen who participated in the Bay of Pigs. Veterans have joined together in varying degrees, not solely for the purpose of helping to write the history of their era, but also to exchange experiences and maintain personal contact.

The idea has grown in recent years of fostering the creation of a veterans' association that would fulfill their desire to organize, a desire expressed in various ways as time has passed.

The underlying criterion has been that the association would serve all veterans rather than merely represent isolated groups or specific episodes of the struggle. All veterans would band together in the same organization, enjoy the same rights and duties, and share the same objectives. Today as never before, the unity of our forces constitutes an effective weapon for overcoming, in the midst of the complex circumstances in which our people are waging a simultaneous fight to both survive and develop.

This was the motivation that led to the emergence and growth of the Association of Veterans of the Cuban Revolution.

[Blaquier] What are the Association's objectives?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] I can tell you in a matter of a few words: the unconditional defense of the revolution for which thousands and thousands of soldiers gave the best of themselves in the revolutionary struggle and the process of building socialism in our country.

[Blaquier] Who may join?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] Anyone wishing to do so may join the Association. The provisional bylaws provide that membership is open to Cuban citizens who accept those bylaws, who maintain moral and political conduct in keeping with the principles of the revolution and socialism, and who are duly recognized as members of the Rebel Army, the Underground [la Clandestinidad], the Bay of Pigs, the fight against banditry, internationalist missions, and the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and MININT [Ministry of Interior] with over 20 years of active service and who are retired or pensioners.

It was also decided that the fathers and mothers of those who died defending the revolution and who meet the requirements may join the Association.

In addition, once the National Board has been elected, it may approve membership in the Association, on a special basis, of veterans and citizens of other countries who have contributed to the struggles of the Cuban people in their final phase of liberation or for socialism and its international principles.

[Blaquier] How will the organization be related to the rest of the country's institutions?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] The Association will have its own legal status and maintain close relations with the country's political, mass, and social organizations at all structural levels and, naturally, based on the origin of their members and their basic objective of consolidating the defense of the revolution. It will develop close coordination and cooperation with the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior.

We do not want the Association to be an alternative to or a substitute for other organizations.

[Blaquier] How far along is the organization right now?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] We are in the process of forming the provincial and municipal organizing committees and drafting the internal documents.

In addition, and as a result of a number of organizational measures, the provinces in the eastern region of the country have made progress in determining the human potential for joining the rank-and-file organizations. In the specific case of Santiago de Cuba, on the 40th anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks, they will conclude the process in homage to the event as one more proof of our people's decision to remain united behind Fidel and the revolutionary leadership in a union of young people and old veterans, more determined than ever to face the current difficulties and overcome.

It should be pointed out that in Santiago de Cuba, nearly 30,000 veterans are now joining over a thousand rank-and-file associations and, as I explained, this process will end on 26 July.

[Blaquier] Your organization set to work in Pinar del Rio over a year ago. How have things gone so far?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] That experience demonstrated the appropriateness of creating our Association. First of all, in addition to the satisfaction experienced by veterans when they get together and feel comfortable, remember old times and recall the events of their lives that turned them into soldiers, there is an immediate uplifting of the revolutionary fighting spirit and the exemplary nature of every individual.

By way of example, I would tell you that there is increased participation in activities relating to defense and in classes given on days devoted to military training. There has also been an increase in the transmission of fighting experiences to militiamen.

Another important task is the patriotic-military and internationalist work done with the younger generations, which not only involves those who participated in the fight in the Sierra and the plains (many of whom are already very old), but also the thousands of young people who have gone on internationalist missions and who realize the significance of colonialism and imperial policies for the so-called Third World countries.

Interesting communication is going on between veterans and the young students and workers when they exchange

opinions and experiences at the end of a day of volunteer work or at a conference at a work center or school.

All of this means that, even as it is being built, the Association of Veterans is gradually occupying an important place in Pinar del Rio, along with all the forces that are defending and promoting the revolution.

[Blaquier] When will the process of organizing the ACRC come to an end?

[Santamaria Cuadrado] Based on the schedule drafted, at the national constituent conference in December, when the bylaws will be approved and the National Board will be elected.

We have set the historic date of 7 December and named Cacahual as the setting for introducing the National Board to our People. As the result of secret, direct voting by the delegates, the board will have the task of leading the ACRC to compliance with its objectives.

[Blaquier] Finally, we would like to know whether there are similar organizations in the world and what sort of relations you will have with them.

[Santamaria Cuadrado] Yes, there are numerous organizations in many countries that unite veterans of various wars and those retiring from the Armed Forces, and there are others rallying veterans of specific conflicts or wars of liberation with which the ACRC will maintain contact or relations depending on their objectives and their understanding of the economic realities of our time.

Haiti

New Senate President Addresses Legislative Colleagues

FL1108214293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the normalization session held on 10 August with the presence of foreign diplomats, some Haitian political leaders engaged in a disagreement that nearly aborted the meeting.

By the time, however, Senators Dupiton and Jean-Louis presented their resignations and other senators established their positions of principle, the session followed its normal course through the election for an office of compromise with the members' acclamation. At the end of this procedure, Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis of the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, retained his position as president, president of both political blocs represented within the new office. The Senate vice presidency is now occupied by Serge Joseph, who recently decided to join the constitutionalists. Serge Joseph is from PAIN, the National Agricultural and Industrial Party. The first secretary, Ebrane Cadet, is a member of MIDH, [Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti] and of the Alliance bloc. The second secretary, Yvon Gislain, was elected under the FNCD. Acceding to the office presidency, Senator Firmin Jean-Louis called his colleagues to moderation and defined his line of action based, according to him, on harmony in his relations with the executive and judicial powers.

[Begin Jean-Louis recording] Honorable colleague legislators, senators, and deputies present here: You, who like me, have received from the people the mandate to work for the upholding of their rights and for the safeguard of their liberties. You carry, with me, the weight of a heavy responsibility within the framework of the new order of things to be established. The people are expecting from us deliberate, appropriate measures that will help solve the delicate, multiple problems they face, some more urgent than others. The people expect, from the new spirit that must prevail as we carry out our tasks, the chance to finally see the issues, on which their lives and dignity depend, reconsidered according to their real worth and placed above immediate political interests. In these decisive times, within our trajectory of people, our vocation is such that it would be to expose ourselves to history's implacable judgment to neglect our duties toward the country and its 5 million citizens. Therefore, we hold the intimate conviction that with the constant concern of accomplishing, without weakness, the mission that falls on us, we will serve the nation's interests well and justify the Haitian people's hope of a better tomorrow. [end recording]

We learned on 10 August that the Senate president, as well as the president of the lower chamber, would travel to Washington within the next few hours to meet with President Aristide regarding the appointment and ratification of the prime minister.

Benoit, Dejoie Cited on Formation of Senate Office

FL1108202893 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpts] The positions held by the National Congress of Democratic Movements [CONACOM] and the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] were official on 10 August. Let us listen to Adyjeangardy on that score:

[Adijeangardy] Obviously, reactions have been recorded. First, Victor Benoit leader of CONACOM, and FNCD spokesman, believes the Senate is finally going to work to facilitate the democratic transition. Professor Benoit says he is expecting a lot to follow normalization of the Haitian parliament.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Benoit] We in the FNCD and CONACOM are very happy that an FNCD member, namely Firmin Jean-Louis, is president.

[Unidentified Journalist] [words indistinct] already of the concord, of the formation of the Government of National Concord?

[Benoit] It is too early to speak of a concord government. We cannot cut corners. Today, it is the formation of the Senate office. We are glad that the senators reached a compromise allowing them to form, not a sectarian office, but an office that includes representatives of the two blocs. We think such an office will be able to work and if [words indistinct] they will have a quorum to vote the laws that are necessary so the democratic transition can be ensured in a peaceful manner. [passage omitted]

Louis Dejoie II, leader of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN], received the normalization of the Senate with satisfaction. Dejoie says he is ready to participate in the forthcoming government of national concord. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sen Sansaricq Denounces Pressure by Foreigners, Embargo

FL1108152093 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] The Haitian Senate is not free. It has been taken hostage by the United Nations, the OAS, and the United States. These were statements made by Senator Bernard Sansaricq during the session to install the latest office at the upper chamber. Before leaving the session room on 10 August, the Grand'Anse senator added that the Senate is acting under the pressure of a trade and oil embargo, which serves to hamper the free functioning of the Senate.

[Begin Sansaricq recording] I must tell the Haitian nation and the nations of the world that the Senate is not free, that it has been taken hostage by the United Nations and the OAS or by the United States. The actions it takes under the pressure of the embargo and the oil embargo are forced actions and, as such, constitute a true international scandal. It is (?then) this scandal that I want to denounce today in the most solemn manner, in front of the Haitian nation, and in front of all nations of the world that believe in the self-determination of peoples and in the great democratic principles of sovereignty and independence of states. As long as Haiti is entangled in the stranglehold of this illegal and cruel trade and oil embargo, thanks to the monstrous complicity of the homeland sellers, I will refrain from participating in any vote relating to the political crisis that we are experiencing today, not wanting to bring our support to the current seizure of our national institutions by foreigners. [end recording]

Judnel Jean Disproves Sansaricq Kidnapping Theory

FL1108214793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Senator Judnel Jean held a news conference this morning in the Senate. Judnel Jean denied statements by Sen. Bernard Sansaricq, according to which he was allegedly kidnapped and sent to the Dominican Republic to be illegally confined. Sen. Sansaricq had accused the legislators of the National Front for Change and Democracy of authoring the kidnapping. Sen. Judnel Jean today denied all of this, asserting that he had simply decided to stay away for the purpose of allowing both blocs to find a solution to the Senate situation.

Manigat Preparing 'Democratic Return to Power'

FL1108211193 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Former Haitian President Leslie Francois Manigat came out against the death work of the United Nations and the OAS at the opening of the fifth congress of his party, the RDNP [Assembly of National Progressive Democrats] in Port-au-Prince. Manigat strongly denounced the impending threats of intervention and the imposition of an economic and oil embargo against Haiti, which is only creating an internal crisis. The former president, denouncing the coalition of the strongest against only one little country, Haiti, said: I am sorry, but there is no civil war in Haiti, our country. We are not in breach of any international law. He said the OAS is killing innocent people in Haiti and behind it the United Nations is assassinating Haitians. [passage omitted]

Manigat advocated a government contract on a broad basis of patriotic union with delegates from the nine departments of the country and Haitian and foreign political officials, including numerous delegates from the International Christian Democrat [as heard].

Following Professor Manigat's comments, his former prime minister, the first Haitian prime minister, Martial Celestin, also spoke out against the Governors Island Agreement signed on 3 July between President Aristide and Army Chief General Raoul Cedras. According to Celestin, quote, the latter signed it out of kindness or haste, to abandon the masquerade, but his signature does not give that document any value, unquote.

Manigat arrived for new presidential elections and in opposition to President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti. He did not consider Aristide's 1990 election a guarantee for democracy in Haiti because Father Aristide is not a democrat. Prof. Manigat added: Today, we are preparing our democratic return to power.

Our reporter Jean Luckenson participated in the fifth congress of the RDNP on 10 August.

[Begin Luckenson recording, in Creole] [passage omitted] Prof. Manigat hopes that all those of goodwill will set their hand to the plow. The room was crowded with people. We noted that the party members were wearing T-shirts with the party initials or armbands reading RDNP. The various political figures present included Hubert de Ronceray, leader of the Mobilization for National Development; Louis Dejoie, leader of the National Agricultural and Industrial Party; Jean-Jacques Honorat, former prime minister under provisional President Joseph Nerette; Edouard Tardieu, leader of the

Social Christian People's Party of Haiti; Aubelin Jolicoeur; retired Major General Williams Regala, former member of the National Council of Government, minister of the interior, and national defense under Gen. Henry Namphy and Pres. Leslie F. Manigat; former Gen. Roland Chavannes; Deputy Duly Brutus; Deputy Antoine Joseph; Deputy Frantz Robert Monde; Carl Denis, member of the national coalition strongly opposed to Aristide's return and to foreign occupation; Deputy Gabriel Sanon; and Sylvan Jolibois, leader of the Haitian Nationalist Party.

Representatives of the press, radio, and television were present. Jean Luckenson for Signal FM. [end recording]

St. Kitts and Nevis

Parliament Passes 'Proceeds of Crime Act'

FL1208011593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2139 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Basseterre, St. Kitts, Aug 11, CANA—The St. Kitts and Nevis parliament has enacted a Proceeds of Crime Act which it hopes will help curb drug trafficking and money laundering. The act was passed with the full support of both sides of the national assembly following lengthy, sometimes heated and acrimonious debate.

The bill which makes provision for the forfeiture and confiscation by the court of property of persons engaged in drug trafficking, was introduced by Attorney General Tapley Seaton. He cited some of these activities for which offenders can be charged as possession, trafficking, organised fraud, money laundering, and possession of property derived from unlawful activity. Seaton said the bill is part of a regional and international effort to curb the illegal drug trade. He said customs and police officers will be empowered to seize cash in excess of EC 10,000 dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) imported into St. Kitts and Nevis or exported from the country.

"Such cash may be seized for an initial period of 72 hours pending investigation and court order," he added. Seaton said that restraining and monitoring orders will be issued to ensure that tainted property, that is property acquired from the proceeds of drug-related activity, is not destroyed or dissipated.

Prime Minister Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, speaking in support of the measure, stated that his government would use a variety of approaches in the fight against drugs and related crimes. He intimated that very strong measures will be used to combat trafficking, adding that despite receiving threats following a series of recent searches, his government will not be deterred.

Opposition leader, Dr. Denzil Douglas, although supporting the measures, voiced some concerns about the seemingly arbitrary powers given the customs and police. He said this was a reversal of the basic principles of people's fundamental rights and freedom.

Former Deputy Prime Minister Michael Powell, who now sits on the opposition benches, also had some reservations, although he described the law as timely. He noted that the question of drugs and guns has been escalating and mounting over the years, and called for fairness in the application, as certain individuals can be targeted for victimisation. He said he had a creeping fear the bill could be used for persecution, victimisation, and harassment.

Government Rejects U.S., Canadian Initiative on NAFTA

PA1208043093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0302 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Aug (EFE)—On 11 August the Mexican Government rejected U.S. and Canada's intention to permit, through the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), settling environmental or labor conflicts involving Mexico in Mexican courts or tribunals.

Mexican Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra has sent a document to Mexican representatives in Washington negotiating the NAFTA parallel agreements on environmental and labor aspects asking them to reject such initiatives by the United States and Canada, a source from the Secretariat of Commerce reported.

The Mexican Government is opposed to other countries having a right to settle environmental or labor conflicts in Mexican courts "because that would violate its national sovereignty," the Secretariat of Commerce said in a communique.

"Mexico will not accept any procedure that would permit those two countries, or any trinational organization, to judge the Mexican Government in Mexican courts or tribunals," the document stated.

The communique added that "Mexico will only accept parallel agreements that comply fully with its three basic negotiating principles: respect for its sovereignty, not reopening NAFTA, and not permitting the creation of covert protectionist mechanisms."

Despite the differences, "negotiations continue" on the parallel agreements, and talks are taking place alternately in the capitals of the three countries, the document noted.

U.S. President Bill Clinton requested the parallel agreements in order to present them to the U.S. Congress with the NAFTA document for its ratification.

Thus far, only Canada has ratified NAFTA. Should the United States and Mexico ratify it too, it will be implemented in January 1994 as planned.

Salinas Requests Extraordinary Congress Sessions

PA1108224293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by Hector Guerrero]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari sent a request to Congress' permanent commission to call an extraordinary period of sessions to discuss several proposals to consolidate Mexico's democratic reforms. The president, in the communique, stresses that the democratic modernization for which all Mexicans are responsible will serve to safeguard the country's political stability and improve political practices. The president, in the request, reiterates a call to all political parties to join the legislative dialogue for the sake of advancing democracy in Mexico—a collective responsibility and an historic obligation to the nation.

Among the Executive Branch proposals to Congress are new modifications to the federal electoral legislation to allow Mexico to take new steps in its democratic development. Likewise, the Executive Branch referred to a proposal for a new organization of the Federal District Government, which if approved, the communique says, would guarantee the security and sovereignty of the Republic's branches and the creation of representative and democratic organizations through which Mexico City residents could elect their own authorities. Reform proposals to Articles 65 and 66 of the Constitution to modify Legislative Branch session periods would be also included.

The Congress would examine reforms to constitutional Articles 16, 19, 20, 107 subpart 18, and 119 to establish the maximum term the Attorney General's Office can hold a defendant under arrest as well as allow the defendant provisional freedom on bail when the sentence exceeds five years. Another of the proposals concerns reforms to rental laws, with delayed enforcements of the new laws by five years.

During the congressional extraordinary period of sessions, a decree proposal to the country's monetary law regarding a new 50 peso coin will be examined.

Congress Discusses Electoral Reform Decrees

PA1108225993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] The electoral reform draft decree was presented to the Chamber of Deputies on 10 August by the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]. This decree will reform eight constitutional articles. Of course, the one that stands out as a result of the great attention it has drawn is Article 82, which would allow all Mexicans of foreign parents to run for president.

The final electoral draft reform has been defined. It includes the modification of eight constitutional articles. The reform decree was examined and discussed by the Plural Commission for the Consolidation of the Electoral Reform. Article 82 would permit all Mexicans who have no other legal impediments, but whose parents are foreigners, to run for president beginning in the year 2000.

[Begin PRI President Pedro Ojeda Paullada recording] Regarding Article 82, this change, first of all, would not be applicable for the upcoming elections, but for the next one in 1999. [words indistinct] [end recording]

The other constitutional reforms allows minority parties access to the Senate, eliminates the governability clause,

eliminates the current self-check electoral system, combats absenteeism in the legislative chambers, and establishes the composition of the Senate. For the 1994 federal elections, two senators with a relative majority vote and one with a simple majority vote will be allowed for each state and the federal district for the 56th and 57th legislative period. They will serve a six-year term of office. Until the 1997 elections, one more senator with a relative majority will be elected for a three-year term.

The draft decree was prepared by the PRI, taking into account proposals by the opposition. Three of the six parliamentary groups back it.

The proposed decree completed the agenda of the extraordinary period of sessions, which will be summoned by the permanent commission of the Congress on 11 August.

El Salvador

Commentary Criticizes Arrival of U.S. Troops

PA1208040193 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The first contingent of U.S. troops, which will stay in the country until December, arrived in El Salvador on 11 August. According to government sources, the U.S. soldiers will drill wells and build health centers for rural towns in a joint effort with Salvadoran soldiers.

The presence of foreign troops in El Salvador a few months after the civil war ended does not help the consolidation of peace. The fact that Salvadoran and U.S. troops come out of their barracks while the Chapultepec Agreements stipulate the opposite is self-defeating. The peace process calls for demilitarization and for this reason it makes no sense to have soldiers drill wells; a task that could be accomplished by the many thousands of unemployed Salvadorans.

According to some sectors, the arrival of U.S. soldiers looks like a provocation, considering that U.S. soldiers participated in the Salvadoran civil war until a few months ago. It is well known that soldiers almost never reveal their true purposes and that their actions are justified with apparently harmless works, such as the construction of clinics and the drilling of wells. Such excuses, however, are no longer sufficient for Salvadoran reality. If the U.S. Government truly wants to back the peace process in El Salvador, it should suspend the activities scheduled to begin in a few days. It is not true that the Americans are not welcome in the country. No, this is not true. But the very last thing Salvadoran society needs right now is civic and military actions, even more so when foreign troops are involved.

Guatemala

President Promises No Changes to Army Until Peace Achieved

PA1108163093 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio on 9 August said that as long as the armed conflict persists "we will not think about making changes to the Guatemalan Army."

All members of the Armed Forces will continue to fulfill their basic duties, namely to contribute to the defense of constitutional order and maintain peace, he added.

De Leon Carpio stated that the Army "is satisfactorily fulfilling all tasks assigned to it, specifically actions in support of residents of several communities in the national territory as they carry out social projects such as construction of neighborhood roads and potable water lines projects."

Concerning the situation of military commanders, he said that they are working very positively in their corresponding jurisdictions, offering broad support to government initiatives to attain a firm and long-standing peace.

Finally, the president noted the work the military institution has launched as part of the 180-day plan, offering its assistance in several works of general interest.

Nicaragua

Executive Branch Assumes Control of Security Organizations

PA1108162993 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Aug 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Oscar Merlo]

[Text] It has been decided. State security organizations still operating in the country under the wing of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] will now be part of a Presidency Ministry agency but there are no specific agreements yet on how the transition will work.

A source close to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo told EL NUEVO DIARIO that several proposals have been submitted for taking the Information Directorate for Defense (DID), commanded by Colonel Lenin Cerna Juarez, away from the EPS. Meanwhile, the EPS is demanding that the Directorate of Military Counterintelligence (CIM) and the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DIM) be left as they are, under the command of Col. Omar Hallesleven and Col. Antenor Rosales, respectively.

The proposal sent by the Army to President Violeta Chamorro and Antonio Lacayo is that the CIM and the DIM stay as they are and that the DID be transferred to the Presidency Ministry, under Lenin Cerna, but remain structurally part of the EPS.

In other words, the DID, whose specific task it is to oversee internal political and social affairs (state intelligence) will become an agency of the Army attached to the presidency, while its personnel retain ranks and assignments. Instructions for DID personnel will come from the minister of the presidency, and the ministry will provide fund operations.

The EPS proposal is not new. It is modelled on the Spanish CECID (Special Central Defense Information Commission) [Comision Especial Central de Informacion para la Defensa], a security agency that belongs to the presidency, whose members hold military ranks and carry weapons.

Among other possibilities being considered is the creation of an "intelligence community" that would group

the DID, the CIM, and the DIM under the jurisdiction of the presidency but with Col. Cerna at the helm. If these proposals are accepted, the government would appoint two career soldiers from the government ministry and the EPS as security advisers.

Until now, the Christian Democratic Union (UDC), with leader Luis Humberto Guzman, has been the most active political group in this discussion. The other National Opposition Union [UNO] parties, however, continue to press their extremist position, which the military finds unacceptable.

UNO has suggested, for example, transferring the DID to the presidency, appointing a civilian director, and discharging Col. Lenin Cerna and the other lieutenant colonels who form the chain of command at that intelligence agency.

The right-wing logic also calls for the nomination of candidates from UNO and the Sandinist National Liberation Front, in proportion with votes cast in the 1990 election, to be trained as replacements for the current personnel, thus forming a "new intelligence." The Army did not even consider this proposal.

Borge Denounces 'Conspiracy' To Dismiss H. Ortega

PA1108162693 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Report by Daisy Torres; from the "Extravision" newscast]

[Text] During the extraordinary congress of the Luis Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women, held Saturday, 7 August, Commander Tomas Borge Martinez, delivering the keynote address, charged that the Higher Council of Private Enterprise, the Catholic hierarchy, and local politicians want to negotiate the dismissal of General Humberto Ortega.

[Begin Borge recording] Who is seeking the dismissal of the Army chief? They want more than a dismissal. They want to wipe the FSLN from the face of the Earth. They want to make the police disappear. They want to create an army in their own image. The conspiracy to destroy this government and the Army, return to anarchy, and promote intervention by the blue helmets [UN peacekeeping troops] or direct U.S. intervention gathers in this country, as it is in other Latin American countries. The oligarchy, their children grouped in parties [words indistinct], grouped in front parties, and the top leaders of the Church. [end recording]

U.S. senators, conspiring with local right-wing businessmen and politicians, have been pressuring the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro to dismiss Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and Gen. Ortega for several weeks. Something the Sandinist National Liberation Front has rejected.

* Declaration of 29, National Dialogue Viewed

* To Include All Sectors

93CA0165A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 11

[Orlando Nunez Soto commentary: "National Dialogue and Grass-Roots Organization"]

[Text] As far as some Nicaraguans are concerned, National Dialogue and a grass-roots organization are incompatible. One example is the government, which claims that the only way that parties, unions, and other organizations can practice politics in Nicaragua is to conduct a dialogue and reach agreements with the Executive Branch, regardless of whether these agreements are actually complied with, and whether the government resorts to antidemocratic mechanisms to dispossess the working people.

The government has but one lord and master: the conditions set by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The Executive Branch takes action without consulting, continuing a dialogue, or reaching agreements with anyone concerning these measures, which officials repeat like parrots.

Any other form of organization or any other mechanism that society uses to further its interests is condemned in advance as warlike or terrorist, taking advantage, to this end, of the Christian guilt that Radio Catolica preaches.

The contradiction between the National Dialogue and mass organization is also questioned by the opposition right wing, which does not want the government to talk with the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], while at the same time it works hard to organize the Community Boards, mobilize the liberal forces, encourage the armed groups of the 3-80 Front, unleash offensives against the government through its mass media, and call for the annihilation of the FSLN.

"Sparing Lives"

The editorials in LA PRENSA are an example of this stand, as they stress that the failure of the national understanding is due to the inclusion of the FSLN in the National Dialogue.

What these two forces have in common is that they are telling the FSLN and Sandinism in general that the only way they will spare our lives and allow us to exist politically is if we subordinate ourselves and support their plans to dismantle the revolution and implement the IMF prescriptions that will impoverish the people.

There are three opinions among Sandinist grass-roots forces. Some think that the only way to confront the right's military violence is to defend themselves militarily, as in the case of the so-called National Patriotic Front; I do not share this view. Others think that the mechanisms of the National Dialogue have to be combined with grass-roots organizations and mobilization;

this was the position of the most recent Sandinist Assembly, the position in the communique of the 29 activists, the one that I share.

Finally, there are other Sandinists who, under the influence of the government, demobilized by the electoral defeat, or frightened by the belligerence of neo-Somozism (the fascist voice of neoliberalism), propose permanently burying grass-roots consciousness-raising, organization, and mobilization aimed at furthering the interests of the workers and the citizenry. They fear destabilization (unlike the one we already have) and an intensification of class conflicts (unlike the one we already have); the difference is presumably the political source of these initiatives.

Tolerance Not Enough

I want to emphasize that National Dialogue and grass-roots organizations are complementary tasks and forms of civic struggle; that no one must be excluded from the National Dialogue and that all interested parties must be included. Anti-Sandinists have as much right as Sandinists to organize, mobilize, and utilize every form of civic struggle that each deems appropriate: Jcops [Community Movement and Community Board for Works and Progress] or Health Brigade members; commemoration of the Liberal Revolution or the Sandinist Revolution; unionization of the CPT [Permanent Territorial Company] or the FNT [National Workers Front]; campaigns of denunciation on Radio Corporacion or La Primerisima; defense of the bourgeoisie's financial groups or of the cooperatives and the workers; communiques from the Episcopal Conference or from 29 activists in any political party.

If we are talking about revolutionary Sandinist activists, it is not enough to be in agreement with their point, nor does it suffice to support this agenda of tolerance and civilized political life.

What is needed (and the communique of the 29 comrades addresses this) is to take the lead in the dialogue and in the grass-roots organization and mobilization. I also do not think that it is healthy for one group of Sandinists to agree with and work for only dialogue and for another to agree with and work for only grass-roots mobilization. Instead of dwelling on this difference of opinion, let all Sandinists begin working in both directions, regardless of where our sympathies lie among ourselves.

* Goals Coincide

93CA0165B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p 11

[Reinaldo Antonio Tefel commentary: "Social Struggle Does Not Exclude Dialogue"]

[Text] I feel that the remarks by the 29 are a fine contribution to and stimulus for the Sandinist debate, which instead of being hasty must be thoughtful and substantive, presented as a viable alternative agenda.

In pointing out the grave socioeconomic situation in which the Nicaraguan people find themselves, the 29 agree with the statements that both the National Directorate and the Episcopal Conference have made in various documents.

Although the social, grass-roots struggle for the human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the Nicaraguan people is necessary and appropriate, under democracy, the law, and the Constitution, it does not exclude the National Dialogue. And although the dialogue has not brought about a substantive understanding among the country's main political, economic, and social forces, it must not be discarded, but instead corrected and intensified.

As a democratic party of the majority, the FSLN bears a great responsibility to the present and future of the country. It is not true that we are going to achieve greater grass-roots support and meet the people's needs by carrying our disagreements to extremes. Patriotism and love of our people require that we pressure the government to put together an economic and social plan that will benefit the masses in the three years that it has left.

Extreme poverty immobilizes people. Our duty is to wage the social, grass-roots struggle for our most deeply felt grievances by strictly civic, democratic methods and, at the same time, to tell the government forcefully that what we need is both specific, immediate consensus-building that will right our economic and social course and a substantive understanding among the country's main political, social, and economic forces.

A struggle on these two fronts is not ambivalent; it is a mature, responsible, and patriotic response to the historic challenge of a party that must be the voice of the majority of the Nicaraguan people.

I do not doubt that it would be easier to choose just one strategy; this is a major temptation. Yet, meeting great historic challenges has always been difficult, and if we want to remain revolutionaries, we must not avoid what is difficult.

Panama

Study Reveals Drop in Industrial Exports

PA1208034793 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Aug 93 p 11A

[Article by Julio Cesar Aizpurua]

[Text] The value of Panamanian exports fell by 23.1 percent the first quarter of this year while the drop in exported goods totaled 12.6 percent, according to a study by the Productivity Development Center of the Association of Panamanian Industrialists [SIP]. According to the report, the drop in Panamanian exports is the result

of a decline of some international markets and the replacement of Panamanian export products by products from other countries in the region.

The study, which was conducted by economist Rogelio Alvarado, revealed that Panamanian exports during this period equaled $21.2 million or approximately 11,288 tons of Panamanian-made products.

This decline, the document added, is the result of a drop in commercial activities by some clothing manufacturing companies and other establishments owned by multinational companies that export food products. The decline in some markets has also influenced the prices of raw materials and finished goods as well as competition conditions in the international market, where there is more dumping [preceding word in English] than before. This temporary feature of the international market partly explains the drop in industrial exports during the first quarter of this year, the report noted.

Economic growth of 0.3 percent for the manufacturing industry is expected by the end of the year, the report added. Gross domestic product will continue to grow this year at an estimated 5.2 percent, considering that aggregate demand shrunk during the second quarter of this year compared to last year.

Regarding employment, the document disclosed that 33,876 people will continue to work at industrial establishments this year. It explained that production will continue to increase in a slow and irregular manner. These characteristics are attributed to the diminishing returns that, according to the study, appear as the utilization of productive capacity increases.

Argentina

Defense Minister on Condor; Falklands Fishing; Executions

PY1108141893 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2004 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Aug (NA)—Defense Minister Oscar Camilion today rejected the possibility that more officers would be separated from the Air Force as a consequence of the deactivation of the Condor-2 missile project.

Camilion also indicated that Great Britain's decision to extend control of the fishing around the Malvinas Islands would be evaluated "from a defense viewpoint."

"The possibility does not exist that any more officers will be retired as a consequence of the (deactivation of the missile project) Condor-2," he emphasized.

The minister made these remarks at the end of a ceremony, with the participation of President Carlos Menem, commemorating the 81st anniversary of the creation of the Air Force that was held today at the heliport of the Condor Building.

Camilion stated that the leave requested by Commodore Miguel Guerrero, the last "brain" of the Condor-2 project, will be decided "by the Air Force."

"The project is totally deactivated," he reiterated.

He added that "officers have their tenures; they begin and they end," and said that "we will see what we are going to do at the appropriate time"—in other words, when Guerrero's leave ends.

Regarding the United Kingdom's decision to extend the area in which fishing is controlled around the Malvinas Islands, Camilion stated that his ministry is evaluating the matter "from a defense viewpoint," and made it clear that "the political and diplomatic statement" must be issued by the Foreign Ministry.

Camilion indicated that the ministry "will continue to" investigate the charges about the alleged execution of Argentine soldiers in the Malvinas that were made on 9 August by 10 former combatants.

"The (Defense) Commission's fundamental objective was to receive this type of charges," he said.

He added that the objective "is to find out the truth," and indicated that "other sectors of the state will have to participate, such as the Justice and Foreign Ministries."

In this respect, he said that "the courts must intervene in the first place, and then the Foreign Ministry, but (before this happens), the commission has to exhaust all its possibilities."

Brazil

President Franco Complains Over Chronic Information Leaks

PY1108143793 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco yesterday complained that everything the government prepares is leaked out before being announced. He avoided accusing the PT [Workers Party] of spying on the government through active members who are holding second and third level posts, as revealed by O GLOBO, but complained over the leak of information.

"Whether the PT espionage exists, I do not know. But everything the government does leaks out, and that is true," he said.

President Franco feels, however, that he cannot identify the spies:

"Unfortunately this is very difficult to avoid," he said.

Federal Revenues Secretary Osiris Lopes Filho said that he would order an investigation of all charges of violating government secrecy by officials of the Revenues Office with the purpose of favoring political groups. According to Lopes Filho, so far there are no charges of that type against the Revenues Office.

The rumors linking the investigations of the Pau Brazil Company—the engineering company suspected of financing the political campaigns of Sao Paulo Mayor Paulo Maluf—to the action of Maluf's political adversaries have led Lopes Filho to investigate whether some information with political interest could have been leaked out. The results of the investigations were negative, Lopes Filho said.

According to him, the investigations into Pau Brasil are part of a special overseeing program by the Revenues Office called "Migration." This program investigates companies which continuously change address to avoid control.

Central Bank President Paulo Cesar Ximenes said that within the bank the citizen is broadly protected, and there are no risks of having his bank activities investigated by followers of any party. The violation of an individual's bank secrecy, for instance, can only take place in judicial cases. According to Ximenes, the rigorousness of the Central Bank's statutes guarantees the citizen's protection.

"I am not aware of any case of investigation by PT members within the Central Bank," he said.

Minister of finance in 1985 and Federal Revenues Office secretary between 1979 and 1984, Deputy Francisco Dornelles (PPR-RJ) [Progressive Renewal Party-Rio de Janeiro] said that he has never seen so much leakage of government documents and secret actions as now.

"The state has completely lost control. This is the time for the president of the Republic and the ministers to feel that they are responsible for the administration. They are responsible for any document leaked out illegally," Dornelles said.

A defender of absolute secrecy in operations until the target of the investigations by the Treasury or any other controlling department can defend itself, Dornelles made another criticism. He said that the leaks are serious also because often they include distorted information, which can be used for political purposes.

President Franco yesterday also said that he is upset, as any other Brazilian citizen, over the escape of PC [Paulo Cesar] Farias.

"The Federal Police must find him," he said.

Annoyed by PC Farias' relatives' insinuations that he could have been benefited as well by the PC scheme to be elected together with former President Collor, President Franco said he did not participate in the administration of the campaign financings, not even in his own state.

"Had I known that all these things would happen, I would have never have participated in that ticket. My income tax declaration is available for anyone who might like to see it," he said.

Workers Party 'Espionage Network' Termed 'Best' in Country

PY1108134993

[Editorial Report] Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese on 8 August carries on page 3 a series of reports on an alleged Workers Party espionage network that might be spying on the federal government.

A 600-word report by Ascanio Seleme and Ricardo Amaral says that "in its 14 years of life, the Workers Party (PT) has created a formidable army of militants and followers within the federal administration, obtaining—through the CUT [Sole Workers Center]—strategic control over public servants' unions." The article notes that "the CUT is the PT's main source of information on the government and on its political adversaries." The article then quotes Senator Espiridiao Amin as "charging" the PT with having used "against its adversaries information obtained through illegal methods from the government structure, from official and private banks, from the attorney general's office, and even from the Federal Police."

A 300-word unattributed report says that "it is not only the adversaries of Lula who are concerned about the PT information network. Within the Armed Forces, PT behavior is one of the main justifications for creating an intelligence service, improving the old National Intelligence Service (SNI)."

The report then quotes "a general of the Army" who says that "former President Fernando Collor destroyed the SNI, and did not put anything in its place. The CUT took this place, and today it is the organization that has most information about the government."

A 250-word unattributed article reports that "the Brasilia Federal Agents' Union is a member of the CUT. The National Federation of PM [Military Police] soldiers and the Fire Brigade would have liked to have joined the CUT, had it not been forbidden by law."

The article adds that "the Brazilian Federation of Soldiers (Fenapol) does not conceal its support for parties like the PT."

A 300-word unattributed article entitled "Politicians Become Detectives" lists investigations made by PT lawmakers. The article says that "during the CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] work into the Paulo Cesar Farias affair, a team led by [PT] Deputy Jose Dirceu obtained information on Farias accounts abroad, faster and with more details than those revealed by the investigation by the U.S. agency Kroll which was hired by the CPI."

A 700-word article by Jose Luiz Longo says that "the Workers Party has the best information service in the country." The article adds that "the information network is basically made up of graduate officials holding strategic posts in the public and private sectors. Some cabinets of federal and state PT deputies operate as actual information networks."

The article says that "all reports are screened by party bloc leaders," and that "the PT carefully keeps the names of their spies secret."

The article then explains how the PT managed to "impair the political image of Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho," noting that "party members hold leading posts in strategic areas in banks."

A 400-word unattributed article says that the PT has become "sort of a state-run company" because of the influence of the PT and the CUT on "public servant unions," and because of the "systematic collecting of contributions from lawmakers and party members hired by the government and by Congress." The article adds that PT "councilmen, prefects, and federal and state deputies deduct 30 percent of their net wages for the party."

Government 'Scared' by UN Indigenous Rights Declaration

PY1108150793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 93 p 10

[Article by Elza Pires]

[Text] Brasilia—The UN project for a Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights has scared the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and surprised the Justice Ministry. The proposal now under discussion recognizes the right to

self-determination of indigenous communities, establishes their possession of land, and contemplates the organization of political parties made up exclusively of Indians.

In the Foreign Ministry's opinion the project that the United Nations is studying might facilitate the emergence of free territories. Justice Minister Mauricio Correa does not agree with that possibility. "The Brazilian territory is defined in the Constitution, and it is a government duty to preserve the country's integrity," Correa said, showing surprise at the measure. "Brazil is a UN member, and its delegation will certainly fight to amend the proposal."

Brazil has recently reserved 9 million hectares, an area the size of Portugal, for the Ianomami Indians.

National Indian Foundation (Funai) President Claudio Romero said that the proposal does not have the dimensions people are giving it. "Self-determination does not mean that indians will try, in the future, to create indigenous nations within our borders," Romero said. "Self-determination means respect for indigenous peoples' social and cultural differences," Romero added.

Diplomats involved in the issue at the Foreign Ministry are, nevertheless, scared. Their greatest fear is with the project's terms, which could be transformed into a kind of indigenous substitute for the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Officially the Foreign Ministry disagrees with the concept of "indigenous peoples" used in the proposal. "The word people means nation," warns a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official, who added that this type of declaration might help in the creation of separatist movements and the formation of isolated groups.

According to the source, the Rio de Janeiro Letter, as well as Agenda 21, signed during the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92), refer to populations and communities and never to indigenous peoples. "Indians do not own the land they occupy," the Funai president says. "The land belongs to the country."

Marcio Santilli, Indigenous Rights Nucleus executive secretary, said that the UN declaration should represent a kind of political bases, without the force of a law, for indigenous peoples. "It only points in a certain direction," Santilli said.

Santilli thinks that groups opposing self-determination are wrong, because they fear for national sovereignty and about separatist movements while the trend in the world today points toward "supranational states."

According to NDI figures, there are 519 identified indigenous areas in Brazil. Out of this total 87 have been legalized, and 106 are waiting for the Funai work group to begin the demarcation process. The other cases are waiting for Funai or the Justice Ministry to establish their borders or to include them as federal territories under indigenous people's use.

Foreign Minister on Diplomatic Corps, Nation's Image Abroad

PY1108162593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Aug 93 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister-designate Celso Amorim by Jose Carlos Santana at the Foreign Ministry in Brasilia; date not given]

[Text] [Santana] How did the Foreign Ministry absorb President Itamar Franco's criticism over the massacre of minors in the La Candelaria district of Rio de Janeiro?

[Amorim] The incident was fully cleared up with the issuance of the note in which the president makes clear his concern about Brazil's image, and his confidence in the professional capability and patriotism of our agents abroad. Itamaraty is an organization of the executive branch, to which it owes obedience and loyalty.

[Santana] Will there be any changes as a result of this criticism?

[Amorim] The president's concern supports a rationalization that is already under way here at Itamaraty. A commission created by then Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is studying new work practices and methods.

[Santana] How can the projection of Brazil's image be improved?

[Amorim] The main task is to demonstrate that the image of Brazil that is projected abroad does not reflect the country's complexity. Brazil is in fact a country that has its problems with street waifs. But it is also a country where the government has a strong determination to modify this type of situation.

[Santana] And from where will the funds for this task come?

[Amorim] This task requires more funds. But even if we had the funds, we would not be able to stop the media out there from disseminating what is being done wrongly here. Moreover, it is important that the diplomatic missions be equipped to provide quick answers, because there are still deficiencies in the collection of information and its dissemination.

[Santana] There are some who say that we have too many embassies...

[Amorim] Even if we should make a comparison with a country that has less scope, such as Australia for example, then I would say that it is an erroneous opinion. Brazil has one ambassador in Geneva, while Australia has three. It is also being said that we must adjust our diplomacy to these times of crisis. An embassy is not opened or closed that easily. There is no need to ask for permission to close an embassy, but in order to open it again you have to request permission, because there is any amount of diplomatic work to be carried out. In addition, Brazil is an important country. Brazil is

always invited to participate in all important international meetings. Brazil is, in addition, becoming a country of emigrants, and this obliges us to expand and perfect our network of consulates. Today we have some 1 million Brazilians scattered throughout the world. Brazil is a global country, because it trades with the whole world.

[Santana] And what about the lack of funds?

[Amorim] The diplomat faces these situations in the best possible manner, and many times he uses money out of his own pocket while he is trying to explain our task and our difficulties. Maybe the nondissemination of its activities is another of Itamaraty's weak points. Maybe it is another failure of ours, which is penalized with a reduction in our funds.

Chile

Bilateral Group To Investigate Controvery With U.S.

PY1208014093 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Jul 93 p A16

[Text] A joint Chilean-U.S. communique was issued yesterday concerning the creation of a bilateral working group to overcome the controversy over the poisoned grapes case. The communique reads as follows:

"The U.S. and Chilean Governments will create a special working group to make a major effort toward solving the poisoned grapes case.

"The group will make a comprehensive analysis of the controvery, considering the positions of the two governments in connection with the temporary suspension of fruit imports in 1989. The group will try to find ways to lead future cooperation along constructive paths.

"The group will hold its first meeting in Chile on a date to be established."

Foreign Minister To Request Special Judge To Probe Charges

PY1108134793 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] In view of the concern and public alarm caused by the charges of Brazilian citizen Tania Maria Cordeiro, who has charged that she was tortured in Chilean police facilities, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has decided to ask for the designation of a special judge to investigate the matter.

Today, the minister gave a full account of the situation involving this Brazilian citizen, who was arrested in March but only filed a lawsuit before Chilean courts on charges of abuse and mistreatment in Chilean police facilities in August. In this regard (?she) filed a lawsuit against those responsible for these serious actions. For its part, the Brazilian Government, through its general consulate, raised the subject in expressing its concern to Chilean authorities.

Minister Silva Cimma today said that the request for the designation of a special judge for this case seeks to ease the concern that this situation has caused in Brazil, adding that it also reflects the government's concern about human rights.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] In this particular case, the situation is causing public alarm, not only in Chile, where some reports on the matter have been published, but especially in Brazil, where the matter was widely covered. Chile is obviously interested in clarifying the situation because we are particularly careful with anything dealing with human rights. [end recording]

This afternoon the minister spoke about the subject with his Brazilian counterpart over the phone. Silva Cimma said the Brazilian foreign minister had expressed his satisfaction about the Chilean Government resolution.

The Chilean minister denied that the case will have repercussions with regard to bilateral ties or to the visit that Brazilian President Itamar Franco is scheduled to pay to Chile this year. It should be pointed out, however, that an official Brazilian Government note has raised the seriousness of the matter, quote, as far as its political repercussions are concerned, unquote, as the note puts it.

Malaysian Trade Minister Arrives on Official Visit

PY1208003493 Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 28 Jul 93 Economy Section p 4

[Excerpt] Malaysian Trade and Industry Minister Sri Rafidah Aziz, along with a delegation of 30 businessmen, arrived in the country yesterday on an official four-day visit.

"We would like to see more Chilean investors arriving in Malaysia to do business," she said upon exiting the airplane that brought her to Chile for her first visit. She added that the purpose of her visit was to increase economic ties between Chile and the business community. She added that Malaysia already has some investors in Chile but they would like to increase current trade. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Ministry Official Deplores Kiwi Incident

PY1108125293 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Aug 93

[Text] (Alain Ruquier), French Foreign Ministry director for Latin American affairs, has said that the burning of kiwis in France is a deplorable incident but does not entail a commercial crisis between Chile and France. The visitor has come to Chile to hold political talks with Chilean Foreign Ministry officials. The French official

talked with the political directors of the Chilean Foreign Ministry, headed by Director General Carlos Portales.

(Ruquier) said that bilateral issues, cooperation, and trade were comprehensively analyzed, adding that it was an exchange of views in line with the good bilateral relations. He said the fruitful bilateral dialogue affords a chance for tightening ties between the two countries. This exchange also reflects the two countries' desires to promote their relations.

As for the Chilean kiwis, which French farmers burned because of a production surplus, the French visitor said:

[Begin recording] I believe the problem, which is an incident, a deplorable incident that we condemn, should be considered within a broader context, both from the viewpoint of kiwi trade with the European Community and from the viewpoint of general trade relations between the Community and Chile. I believe the incident does not reflect any difficulty, restriction, or crisis in the commercial relations between the Community and Chile. Obviously, even though it is deplorable, it does not affect bilateral relations with France. [end recording]

As an example of the normalcy of relations between Chile and the Community, (Ruquier) referred to the increasing Chilean trade to Europe.

* Figures Show Higher Unemployment Among Women

93SM0361A Santiago LA NACION in Spanish
26 Jun 93 p 17

[Article by Alejandra Costamagna]

[Text] Unemployment among young women came to 13.2 percent in the October-December quarter of 1992, while the figure for young men was 9.7 percent. In the Eighth Region, unemployment for females was 8.4 percent, so that if the regional index is combined with that for young people, a figure of about 20 percent unemployment for women in that region is obtained.

The national average, which includes all ages, both sexes, and all regions of the country, was only 4.4 percent in the last quarter, according to the most recent INE [National Statistics Institute] figures.

The unemployment figures for young women (those between 15 and 24 years of age) were set forth in a study drafted jointly by the Labor Economy Program (PET) and the National Women's Service (SERNAM). This study was based on the monthly data provided by the INE itself.

Jaime Ruiz-Tagle, the director of the PET, warned yesterday that "when it is said that Chile is already being threatened by tigers or dragons, or that we have unemployment verging on 5 percent, what is forgotten is that this is an overall national average, while if we focus the data and analyze certain figures carefully, we find major problems, such as that in the Eighth Region."

The study reveals that the unemployment problem is concentrated among the younger age groups. While unemployment for young males dropped during the year from 114,250 to 92,940 individuals, there was an increase for young women from 65,940 to 68,800.

Female unemployment was significant in the three regions with the largest populations (Fifth, Eighth, and Metropolitan), and it was also to be found on a lower level in the Fourth, Seventh, and Ninth Regions, as well.

However, of the 232,900 new jobs created in 1992, 125,250 were filled by women and 107,650 by men, representing an increase of 9 percent for female employment and 3.4 percent for male employment.

Soledad Alvear, the minister and director of the SERNAM, said yesterday that the balance for the overall figures shows that more women than men have joined the labor market, "and this represents a significant advance if we realize that in order to become a developed country, the incorporation of women is going to be needed."

Despite this positive figure, the unemployment rate for women was higher than the national average in three of the four quarters in 1992. Between October and December, for example, the level reached was 5.3 percent for women, while it was 3.9 percent for men.

* Problems of Fruit Exporters Detailed

93SM0361B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
11 Jul 93 p D15

[Text] Many fruit growers are confused—quite confused. This includes those in debt to the banks and the suppliers, on the one hand, and to the export firms, on the other. They insist that San Felipe is in debt to the financial system for the equivalent of the value of its land.

And how can the fruit growers fail to be worried, since the majority will have deficit balances when the exporters have settled their accounts this year? And, the assure us, since the banks do not want to grant loans even to the exporters, who in turn lend to the producers, the problem will be how to finance the coming harvest, although it does not promise salvation to anyone, either.

While the Central Bank has not yet produced the final figures on the most recent fruit-growing season, the volume of fruit exported and the income therefrom will this year, for the first time, show a decline. Already, in the past two years, a decline in the profitability of fruit has been seen. In 1992, the total volume shipped was up by 7.7 percent, while income dropped by 2.5 percent. But this year both figures will be down, and it is estimated that total income will be even lower than that earned in 1991 ($860 million as compared to $992 million).

This is because the prices of table grapes have dropped, and only the producers in the northern zone will see positive returns. This is because the apple crop was a

total loss, as was that of pears. Kiwi fruit, which continues to rank high in income value, will cover the costs—with luck. Only the fruits of less importance in the sector—plums, nectarines, avocados, and peaches—produced good results.

And during the current season, the market has played a dirty trick on fruit producers, who were already complaining about the reduced profitability of their exports resulting from the increase in domestic costs and the drop in the value of the dollar. The surplus world supply, particularly in the Northern Hemisphere, linked with the international recession, caused a drop in the prices of the fruits exported.

And it is for the producers that a lower price is easily transformed into losses, because it is they who assume the total risk on the market. If the final price is down by 10 percent, they nonetheless have to pay for the 20 stages between them and the final consumers—packing, transportation, maritime freight, consignment agent, supermarket, export commission—even if their profit is zero.

But as if the situation had not been bad enough simply in terms of the market, the Europeans decided to make the import of Chilean apples more difficult. And this is not a question of "just any old fruit" for our country, because last year Europe bought 69 percent of our international exports of apples, and this, in turn, accounted for a fourth of all the fruit Chile sold abroad.

And because Chile had ignored the quotas imposed by the EC [Economic Community] in 1988, and subsequently won the case presented to the GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], Europe did not apply this system in this case, as it had been announced in February that it would, but instead imposed a compensatory customs duty. This comes into play whenever the value of the fruit drops below the reference price established by the EC, which is, of course, well above the sum at which the fruit is sold on its own domestic market.

And what has happened as a result of the application of this system to Chilean fruit is almost Felliniesque. At first, on 12 March, when the reference price was almost $14 per crate weighing 18.2 kg, Chilean apples were sold for $16. But on 9 April, the reference price dropped, and the EC immediately imposed a customs surtax of half a dollar on the fruit. And since then, Chilean sales have dropped below the reference price an additional 12 times, so that successive surtaxes were applied.

The most recent, that on 2 July, came to $8.60. And as apples were selling at that time at $10.10, $8.60 of this amount went for the surtax and $1.50 to the producer. Thus the producers lost $7.50 on each crate sold on which this surtax was imposed.

Apart from the responsibility borne by Europe for this form of "neoprotectionism," as Minister Foxley called it, Chile also bears some blame. "South Africa and Argentina have very capably avoided the perverse effects of the European system, because they can prevent a drop below the referenced price by suspending sales of their fruit whenever this is about to occur," Ricardo Ariztia, president of the Federation of Fruit Producers (FEDEFRUTA) explained. And he added that "the South African exporters operate through a single board, like a single seller, while Argentina exports manageable volumes through three or four enterprises. Chile, on the other hand, cannot control its foreign sales of fruit, because it sells a great deal of it to third parties in Santiago or in Europe who then proceed to market it on their own. And the system even allows our competitors—South Africa and Argentina—to sell Chilean fruit at figures below the reference prices."

But the producers recognize that Chile bears other responsibilities in this connection. They admit that we launched the season early in Europe, with an unusually high volume of fruit. This panicked the Europeans and triggered the surtaxes.

According to Ariztia, the crisis is not in fruit production, but rather in the government's handling of international economic relations, and in the system of marketing fruit. On the first point, he said that the absence of speedy reaction and of ministerial coordination, and the lack of strategies and effective promotion are well-known. With regard to the second point, he criticized the exporters, who often carelessly allow the inclusion of fruit that is inedible because it is green in the crates shipped, thinking that their business will be protected by the volume exported, instead of cultivating markets by means of fewer shipments of higher quality.

Ariztia rejects the claims of the dogmatists who maintain that the market will regulate everything. He explains that "a general structure is required in order to have at least minimal parameters for maturity, compulsory sales promotion, and standardization of packing and fruit requirements."

He adds that otherwise—if a laissez faire policy is allowed, "first the producers will disappear and then the domestic enterprises, and we will lapse into vertical integration, wherein it will no longer be possible to react to the reduced foreign-exchange income."

The measure adopted by the EC translated concretely into a reduction of 44 percent in our exports of apples to Europe as compared to the 1992 figure. And this year Chile's apple shipments, which accounted for a fourth of its fruit exports worldwide last year, declined by at least 12 percent.

The experts calculating the volume of apples we would export this year estimated the losses at almost $130 million.

All of the producers will have to face losses, even the majority who have negotiated with exporters on the basis of a "guaranteed minimum." The export enterprises have already announced that they cannot pay this minimum—close to the $3.50 that only covers the producer's costs, claiming the intervention of a "force majeure"—

the customs surtax imposed by the EC. As a result, they will face court suits filed by the producers.

According to Ariztia, the fact that the export enterprises have lost their credibility has also created a crisis. The producers are exerting pressure to have the payments made to them include not only the cost to the enterprises of getting their fruit delivered to the wharf (FOB), but also the expenditures for maritime freight, insurance, and marketing the fruit abroad.

When business is bad, the producers want to defend their share down to the last cent. And why would they not, when 6.5 million crates of apples could not be exported this season? This fruit stayed on the trees, was sold on the domestic market at a low price, or was used to produce concentrated juice, the price of which dropped from $132 to $26 per ton.

And why would they not, when the producers exported all of the new pear crop this year, expecting to obtain the excellent 1992 prices, only to find that, following the sad example of the apples, their value in Europe was down by half?

And why would they not when in the best of cases, only the producers of kiwi fruit will recover their costs this season.

Many growers harvested only 40 or 60 percent of their crop, but prices also fell by 20 percent in the United States because the supply of this fruit now exceeds world kiwi consumption.

Even grape varieties encountered serious difficulties this year. They resulted in losses for the producers from the Metropolitan Region southward.

According to Ariztia, the time has come to face up to serious problems that we cannot continue to ignore, because the coming season will be even worse. There will again be overproduction in the Northern Hemisphere. And the decision required will involve replacing 60 percent of our apple production, since according to the FEDEFRUTA, there is no longer a good market for our apples because of the development of more recent varieties. And it will be necessary to abandon between a third and a half of the area devoted to the raising of kiwi fruit in order to improve the business.

Some producers who are not deep in debt may survive for two or three years more without harvesting kiwi fruit, or by doing so only partially. But many of those who are in debt cannot tolerate further losses, and have put their orchards up for sale. In Copiapo, a prime fruit-growing area, 10 vineyards are up for sale, and next week, a farm in Rancagua with 14 hectares in apples and 14 in vines will be sold. A farmer in San Bernardo who owes a million per hectare is offering 60 hectares of pear orchards for sale for 120 million pesos.

Others, unwilling to sell their land, have had to sign agreements for eight or 10 years with export enterprises in order to get them to finance the next harvest.

* Study Shows Bureaucratic Obstacles for Exports

93SM0361C Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 9 Jul 93 pp A1, A15

[Article by Enrique Mujica]

[Text] "Depressed? No. But we cannot be complacent if we know that there are problems likely to become more acute in the future." This statement was made by Roberto Fantuzzi, vice president of the National Exporters' Corporation.

Fantuzzi, together with other businessmen, attended a meeting with President Patricio Aylwin a week ago. They discussed the main difficulty facing them—the rate of exchange.

But for some time now, certain imperfections in the Chilean export system said to be affecting the competitive capacity of our products on the world market have been the subject of commentaries. As a result, the Exporters' Corporation, whose members include 95 percent of those engaged in this activity, commissioned a consulting firm—Aninat, Mendez, and Associates—to undertake an analysis of the existing restrictions and microeconomic hindrances. The report is being kept confidential.

The analysis noted 25 major problems, involving Customs Department, the Treasury, the Central Bank, Domestic Taxes (SII), the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), the EMPORCHI [Port Enterprise of Chile], and the Superintendencies of Banks and the AFP [Pension Fund Administration Boards].

"There is a bureaucracy, a heavy mechanical apparatus that is costly and subhuman, because a modern country like ours cannot afford the luxury of requiring that its enterprises of average and small size, for example, produce thousands of social security documents at a very high cost, when they must then wait in very long lines in order to make the payments. In the final analysis, all of these costs push the price of the productive process upward," Ronald Bown, president of the Corporation, says.

"The working concept calls for a search for solutions. Some have already been found. I do not deny that I would like to see more rapid progress," Fantuzzi emphasizes.

The Central Bank is especially concerned with the search for solutions in this connection, Bown recognizes. He cites as an example that the Value Variation Report should have been submitted to the banking body and to the customs entity at the same time. On the initiative of the currency issuing institute, the need to submit this document to the customs officials was eliminated.

The path leading to the marketing of a product abroad is a long one. Between the decision to export and the placement of the goods on the shelves of the target nations, there is a lengthy process.

It is this process that concerns the exporters, because the inefficient aspects increase the costs and reduce competitive capacity. In the so-called second export stage, bureaucracy is not involved. The simple fact is that producing an item in Chile could not be more costly.

"The problem here is not making 'an' enterprise efficient. The entire country must be efficient, since not only industrial goods, as such, are exported, but all of the related services as well, be they state or private," Fantuzzi explains.

The document pursues this idea, analyzing the stages in the process and demonstrating that bottlenecks exist.

This is the case in the Customs Department and the SAG, for example.

The development of these two departments has clearly failed to keep pace with the major increase seen in international trade.

And so many exporters must have recourse to the Custom Department's "special authorization," a mechanism that has recently seen increasing use. Under this system, the producer contracts on his own with an official for overtime work in order to get his documents processed. Such officials can earn up to $30,000 in the most complicated cases. The study shows that "in practice, it is impossible to determine if an official needs overtime in order to do the work, or whether he is profiting from this alternative to increase his earnings."

The discretionary powers of the customs officials are also being challenged. They decide when and to what extent to check the merchandise, how serious the violations found are, and what additional documents will be required. In addition, they can allow the use of the "special authorization" mechanism.

The analysis proposes an evaluation of the extent of the services the Customs Department should render, in view of the current growth of foreign trade; the resources it has for providing these services, and whether they are sufficient; and the wage levels and productivity of the employees.

As for the SAG, it is recognized that its duties are increasing as trade expands. It requires more infrastructure and expert personnel, above all because certain products (such as those in the livestock, forestry, and alcoholic-beverage categories) are no longer seasonal, but "are regarded as being at their peak level throughout almost the entire year."

Producers also pay for extra hours of SAG work—the charge is 50 percent of the rate, or $2.11 per additional hour. And if an inspector stays overnight away from home, he receives a travel allowance. As there are so few inspectors, this is a common occurrence.

Exporters are criticizing the payment of wages in taxable monthly tributary units that increase with the adjustments made by the state. Their income, on the other hand, is in dollars, and is subject to variations below the UF.

They propose a shift system that would allow two different employees to work on the same process (avoiding the need to pay one for overtime), and the equalization of the rates for exporters and importers, which are different today and work to the disadvantage of the former.

The boomerang effect is seen for some laws that, although they were conceived to provide assistance, are today as irritating to the exporters as a pebble in the shoe.

Law No. 18,708, for example, "was very good, but the bureaucracy has contaminated it," the members of the Association of Exporters of Nontraditional Manufactured Products (ASEXMA) are saying. A whole series of mechanisms exist to prevent the producers who import raw materials from having to pay double taxes (that is to say, customs duties when bringing the goods into Chile, and then another customs fee in the destination country).

Among these mechanisms is the norm requiring the rebate to the exporters of the customs duties paid to bring raw materials into the country and give them added value for reexport.

But to many, the procedures for obtaining this rebate prove "stupefying, and because of the cost involved in collecting it, they prefer to do without it." Among the many steps required, it is necessary to establish the consumption factor (the necessary and proper quantity to be deducted from the imported product), which can take up to three months. Paradoxically, this procedure proves more troublesome when it comes to nontraditional exports, and in the end, this has an impact on the diversification of our products.

Similarly, the exporters are asking for increased repayment of the costs of the processes of packaging, cleaning, and selecting imported goods. "Where shampoo is concerned, they import it in bulk, and they can then add 60 percent in added value and reexport it. But because of a loophole in the laws, the customs duties are not rebated."

The study points out that although some of these laws were established to help the exporters, "They are not achieving this goal."

The time it takes to obtain approval for a rebate can be as much as three weeks.

The management of the regional customs offices is another target of criticism. An exporter must seek a rebate at each port through which he ships his products. If he does this in three cities, he will have to have three or more individuals working through the red tape.

The eternal duplication of forms is also being examined. In other words, for certain procedures, the same documents must be submitted more than once due to the lack of coordination among the departments involved.

Last May, the Ministry of Finance announced that the Customs Department was on line, thanks to a computer system linking the country and multiplying the data-processing capacity by 2,000.

Another difficulty is encountered when it comes to importing used merchandise, on which there is a higher customs duty. Environmental reasons are put forth to justify this difference. The exporters point out, however, that not all secondhand goods "cause pollution."

Obstacles are also encountered when a product is rejected in the target country and must be brought back into Chile either for reprocessing, to find another market for it, or to take it as a loss. "Often it is cheaper to abandon the goods, even when this means returning the foreign exchange their export would have brought in."

Where the SII are concerned, the delay in rebating the VAT [value added tax] is a cause of concern. This department has increased its supervision with a view to preventing fraud, but the point is made that this greater control should be efficient and the exporters should benefit from up-to-date background information.

In Fantuzzi's opinion, the crucial problem being experienced by Chile is not limited to these hindrances. It involves education, training, the joint task of the state and the private sector, and even the reinsertion of prisoners in society. "This is an efficient country. It is not a country in which there are obstacles and waiting lines, or where a tax as ridiculous as the territorial tax, requiring $100 per worker from each enterprise, continues to be collected. Can you imagine, this was collected during the 1985 earthquake! It cost me more to go and pay it than the amount of the tax itself!"

* Company Formed With Russia To Offer Trade Services

93SM0361D Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 8 Jul 93 pp B1, B3

[Text] Inversiones San Petersburgo (St. Petersburg Investments), an entity formed by the Valmar Investments holding company and Sergio de la Cuadra, has established a company together with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. It is called Ruschil, S.A. The purpose of the enterprise, the first of its kind, is to provide services facilitating bilateral trade relations, and in addition, to advise on privatizations, foreign investments, and a more open economic approach, among other things.

This information was provided by Jose Luis Garcia, the director and business manager of Ruschil. He explained that the company began operation last March, and that 51 percent of the shares are owned by the Chilean businessmen and the balance by the Russian secretariat of state.

He further explained that the company wants to create a bridge to expedite the trade operations between the two countries and to cope with the numerous obstacles encountered today in the normal functioning of these operations.

In order to carry out its task, Ruschil has established offices in both Chile and Russia. They are staffed with highly trained professionals and equipped with computerized data and a modern communications system.

Among the services the enterprise is currently offering, Garcia mentioned market information on both countries; research on potential business opportunities; advice on the legal, tax, financial, and commercial aspects of trade operations; and direct management of the various maritime and air transport options.

With regard to the Chilean partners, this official said that Valmar Investments is a Chilean business in which Nicolas Imshenetsky, the son of Russian parents, is the principal partner. Sergio de la Cuadra, a former treasury minister and former president of the Central Bank, is, for his part, currently an adviser to Boris Yeltsin, the president of the Russian Federation.

When asked about the trade volume, Jose Luis Garcia estimated that it will reach a total of US$100 million this year, of which Chilean exports to Russia will account for 50 percent.

In this connection, he said that according to the projections made by Ruschil, trade between the two countries should reach US$1 billion in the next five years.

Among the activities organized by Ruschil is the visit being paid to Chile by a group of 20 officials and representatives of industrial trusts in the Urals region.

Yesterday, Eduard Possel, the administrative director for the Perm region, said that the businessmen in that zone are interested in purchasing 200,000 tons of copper from Chile. This is because this metal is needed as a base material for the industrial conversion of the region, which was previously a center of the military industry.

Possel noted that the Urals region, with an area triple that of Chile, has a population of 23 million. It produces production machinery that is competitive "at lower prices, with the products manufactured by Japan and the United States."

This official added that other sectors of interest in terms of the trade exchange are the industries manufacturing garments, footwear, and industrial machinery. He said that his region is a heavy producer of leather and shoes, but has problems with the supply of cotton and wool.

He said that an active process of privatization is under way in the Urals, and 40 percent of the public enterprises

have now been sold. Of the 600 banks operating in the area, 300 are private banks, he added.

Colombia

Castro Gives News Conference in Cartagena

PA1208033593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1620 GMT 11 Aug 93

[News conference by Cuban President Fidel Castro with local and foreign journalists at the Puerto de Manzanillo House for Illustrious Guests in Cartagena de Indias—live]

[Summary From Poor Reception] An unidentified local journalist begins the news conference by asking Castro the reasons for Cuba's recent contacts with Latin American countries. Castro replies: "We must begin by recalling some history. Rather than thinking that Cuba financed and helped the revolutionary movement, you must remember that long before we [word indistinct] the United States had imposed the embargo, the so-called embargo, against our country. Unfortunately, all the Latin American countries, not countries, governments, except for Mexico, supported the embargo. Therefore there was a big conflict with our country, not only because of a matter of doctrine and [word indistinct] but it is true that we wanted a revolution. We were being blocked, and, in addition to the blockade, all those governments joined the policy of hostility and threats.

"We suffered the Giron invasion and many other attacks throughout these years. Naturally, we had to struggle and we have struggled. Any accusations against us with regard to a specific period are correct, I will not deny it. Not only recently, but a long time ago, relations between Cuba and Latin America began to improve. We are no longer a country blocked by Latin America. We are a country that has relations with most Latin American countries, normal relations that have allowed us to implement the principle of nointervention in the domestic affairs of other countries. That is the principle we began implementing many years ago. If someone declared war on us we would not remain with our arms folded, but fortunately circumstances have changed and our relations have improved noticeably."

Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol correspondent Fabio Callejas asks: "How long will your country be able to withstand the situation it now faces as a result of U.S. economic blockade? What do you expect from your visit to Colombia? What do you expect from President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo with regard to the internal situation in your country?"

Castro replies: "We will resist as long as necessary, with the courage and heroism our people. We know that we are defending a just cause and that we are fighting against a criminal and inhuman blockade. From Colombia we expect nothing in particular. We are hoping to improve our relations; we have been working on this for some time now. We hope to have the constructive participation and efforts from Latin American countries to reduce the tensions existing between the United States and Cuba [words indistinct] we hope Colombia will support the struggle against the blockade, which is the most honest attitude it can adopt in a situation like this. We did not come here to request anything special from Colombia, nor do we expect anything special from Colombia."

EL ESPECTADOR correspondent Orlando Rodriguez asks: "I would like to know if you feel disappointed by the fact that the guerrillas that you supported militarily have abandoned their ideals [words indistinct] for which Che Guevara fought. Those guerrilla groups have become common criminals who kidnap people and carry out terrorist activities."

Castro replies: "Are you talking about all the guerrillas in the world or about Colombian guerrillas? I am sorry I cannot judge the Colombian guerrillas. I believe only you, Colombians, can judge them, as it is an internal problem in your country.

"I have no frustrations whatsoever because politics are not girlfriends and we can only have frustrations with girlfriends. Politics is a duty, work. I believe each is responsible for his own actions, his [words indistinct]. We have always respected the autonomy and absolute independence of revolutionary movements everywhere in the world [words indistinct] we have supported freedom struggles in Africa, not only materially, but with our own blood. The Angolan people's struggle for their independence, for example, and of other African countries, the Saharan people's struggle. We could mention many other cases. We have, however, always maintained absolute respect and have never sought any form of hegemony. We have never tried to impose our ideas on anyone. Each is responsible for his actions.

"We are not chiefs of any guerrilla movement. So if we are not chiefs, we cannot be judges either. We cannot judge what guerrilla movements or political parties do. It would be as if I came here and started giving all kinds of opinions on the programs, objectives, and conduct of political parties. I believe it would be disrespectful, and that we would be meddling in your internal affairs. We maintain the same attitude and position toward guerrilla movements that have existed not only in Colombia, but in many other Latin American countries and in other parts of the world."

A REUTER correspondent asks: "Commander Castro, you probably know that on 10 August the two main newspapers in your country published paid messages [anuncios clasificados] addressed to you and signed by several Latin American and European liberal politicians. The first message demanded your resignation and the second one that you call free elections as the only solution for the crisis that, according to the messages, Cuba is currently facing. I would like to know how you will reply to those publications."

Castro replies: "First of all, I have not read those publications, not out of contempt but because I have not had any time. In addition, as you know, I must be selective and give priority to serious matters, and then attend to nonserious matters. I must first attend to those who are not mercenaries and then to those who are mercenaries. My recommendation to the authors of those messages would be to resign their role of lackeys and spokesmen of U.S. imperialism against our country. That is the only reply I have, and that I dedicate my time, which is very limited, to serious matters."

A reporter asks Castro how he views relations between Cuba and Colombia from the days of President Julio Cesar Turbay to President Gaviria's administration. His second question is: "Have you thought where you will spend the rest of your life? Will you stay in Cuba or have you thought about another country?"

Castro says: "I feel that since I was born there, since I had the privilege of being born on that island which Cristopher Columbus described as the most beautiful land ever seen, I would like my bones to rest there. I am sure they will rest there because as far as I am concerned, I will never abandon my cause and my fatherland. If I could return after death, I would never abandon my land and my fatherland. That is how I feel. What else did you want to know?"

The reporter repeats his first question, to which Castro replies: "I cannot agree with the rupture of relations. I believe relations have improved a lot since then. I have maintained direct contact with Colombian leaders, whom I have had the honor of meeting on various occasions."

At 1634 GMT reception deteriorates and is unmonitorable until 1703 GMT. An unidentified reporter is then heard asking Castro: "You have said you are willing to implement changes to which you were opposed before, and which in fact are being implemented. If the United States or countries opposed to the regime you head in Cuba should propose lifting the blockade [word indistinct] the measures that are being implemented and even maintain the same government system, with the condition that you, Fidel Castro, relinquish power, would you be willing to do so?" Castro's reply is indistinct.

Maria Elvira Arango, a reporter for Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1's "24 Hours" newscast asks: "Commander, [words indistinct] is power's main companion. You are alone in your power and are particularly alone politically. Do you not feel lonely and tired and are the Cuban people already tired of Fidel?"

Castro replies: "I cannot answer for the Cuban people. You have to ask them that question. [passage indistinct] I have never fought for power in my life [words indistinct] and I have worked for many years so the least they can say is [passage indistinct] revolution's history there has never been a sole power. There is a collective directorate in which many comrades participate and share responsibilities. I can tell you yes, but more than the loneliness of [words indistinct] power, there are the many things you want to do and develop but cannot because you lack the resources or for other reasons. I know the bitterness of power. I also know the satisfactions because each work accomplished [words indistinct]"

A reporter asks if he has received the backing of Colombia and other nations in his struggle against the U.S. blockade. Castro replies that there are always things to be done to persuade those who persist in the unfair and criminal decision to maintain the blockade against Cuba.

Another reporter says to Castro: In a speech in Havana you said: "Cubans will sit at the door of our house and see the body of capitalism pass by. It seems your presumption did not turn out because, after 30 years, what we see is the body of communism passing."

Castro replies: "[Passage indistinct] but history teaches us that no social structure is eternal and this applies even more so to the ones that caused so much harm to humanity. [Words indistinct] organized societies so that they can use technology, science, and intelligence to find a just world; one that is equal for all, offers possibilities to all, and has food, education, and health for all and not only for a privileged few.

[Passage indistinct] several bodies of communism will pass but it will resuscitate in a better, richer, more developed, and creative manner. You have also and often seen the body of democracy pass in Latin America and doctors are constantly being called to try to stop it from becoming a corpse. [Words indistinct] in the past decade, many bodies of democracies in Central America, Cuba, Argentina, Uruguay, and others passed but, nevertheless, democracy revived. It had another chance. Thus, you cannot say that bodies are definitely dead because man is capable of [words indistinct]."

Diana Mateo, Radio Santa Fe correspondent asks: "During your talks with President Cesar Gaviria did you, at any time, discuss the possibility of Colombia selling oil to Cuba? Could this be done in the future."

Castro replies: "Isn't it strange—we did not discuss oil."

A reporter asks: "Will the important economic measures you announced on 26 July and that are to be ratified shortly include shock measures [words indistinct]? If so, what internal consequences will they have?"

Castro says: "They will not be shock measures. We do not (?need) any kind of shock measures. [Words indistinct] some measures that are not the classic shock measures implemented in Latin America. That I can assure you. We must try to find a solution to our foreign currency problems, our (?lack) of currency problems, and other economic problems, trying to protect the principle of protecting all the people. These are not classic shock measures."

A reporter asks: "In one of your replies, you said you would not negotiate with the United States with impositions. Under what conditions will you negotiate?"

Castro replies: "We do not present any condition. It is a simple matter of being able to talk, negotiate, change [words indistinct] without any conditions. We do not place any conditions but we cannot accept impositions either. So, the only condition is that we talk and negotiate without any conditions."

Another reporter asks: "It is said that the objective of this meeting was to pressure you into making political and social changes in your country because it has many problems, including that your people are hungry. Are you going to make those changes?"

Castro replies: "I can tell you that we are going through very difficult times. We have scarcity. However, contrary to what occurs in other places, our resources are equitably distributed and [words indistinct] there is a difference between what is happening in our country and what is happening in other countries. [passage indistinct]"

Cuban Economy To Be Opened

PA1108213093 Paris AFP in Spanish 1904 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by Special Reporter Pablo Rodriguez]

[Text] Cartagena, Colombia, Aug 11 (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro announced in Cartagena on 11 August that his country's economy will be almost totally opened to foreign investment and added that internal shock measures will not be implemented.

"We are opening our country and, in some cases, our economy to foreign investment, almost without exception," the Cuban leader stated during a long news conference with which he closed his private two-day visit to the Colombian Caribbean beach resort.

"We are willing to open up fields in which we need investment and technology," he explained.

After pointing out that his country lacks economic and technological resources to develop several sectors, he said that those will be the areas in which foreign investment will find an opening in Cuba.

He asserted that several sectors, which are important resources for the government, will continue to be closed, but he said they will be few.

Castro, however, conditioned the rhythm of the economic opening in the Caribbean island to the existent circumstances.

"We are willing to open our country, depending on the circumstances," he emphasized.

In regard to the island's internal economic situation, Castro admitted that "we are going through a difficult situation" and promised that shock measures will not be implemented.

"We are not inclined to implement shock measures. We will have to implement hard measures but not shock measures similar to the ones implemented in Latin America," he insisted.

The Cuban president asserted that the measures being implemented are inspired by social justice, "although we will have to implement a few incidental measures that will negatively affect the people."

He insisted that the country's resources "are being distributed equitably," despite the country's difficult situation.

To confront the critical situation, Castro revealed that "we are willing to adopt several measures that will help us save our country and the principles of Socialism."

He firmly denied any possibility of surrendering to international pressures and warned that he will not betray "Cuba's dignity."

"We expect to resist for as long as it is necessary," he concluded.

Defends Cuban Democracy

PA1108194993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by Marcela Duran in Cartagena; from the "National Newscast"]

[Text] Fidel Castro ended his trip to Colombia with a news conference. Although he never disclosed what he discussed in his meetings with President Gaviria, Fidel stated clearly that he seeks from the Colombian president more support in his fight against the U.S.-imposed economic blockade.

An overview of Castro's visit yields the conclusion that the Cuban president came and went without much ado.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Are you willing to back democratic opening in your country?

[Castro] You have your concept of democracy and we have ours. We just held elections on 24 February, details of which are known to all. We consider that our country has a participatory democracy as few places in the world have. I do not see why conditions should be imposed on us. If it is an imposition, we are unwilling to accept any. [end recording]

The impression was that Fidel Castro's visit to Colombia was merely a social one. No agreements were signed, neither was there a final document with conclusions. Castro will return to his island this afternoon.

Defends Socialism, Cuba

PA1108214193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1902 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 11 Aug (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro asserted on 11 August that he will never abandon his cause or his homeland. He lashed out at capitalism, defended socialism, and invited revolutionary movements to stop shedding blood.

Castro, who arrived in Cartagena de Indias, a city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, on the evening of 10 August for a private two-day visit, said in a news conference that he would like "his bones to rest, as they will surely rest," in Cuba.

"As long as I can move them, I will never abandon my cause or my homeland. Even if I am able to walk after I am dead, I will never leave my country or my homeland," he pointed out.

He reiterated that he is not "willing to meet with exiles, the CIA people, or people who want to destroy the country." He added, however, that "the only term for a dialogue with the United States is that the United States should not set any terms."

During the two days of his visit, Castro talked with Colombian President Cesar Gaviria, Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana, Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin, and writer and personal friend Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

During his news conference, he said he cannot agree with many countries breaking relations with Cuba, as happened with the Colombian government of Julio Cesar Turbay in 1981. Castro admitted, however, that relations between the two countries are "excellent."

He refused to call on the Colombian guerrillas to lay down their arms because, he said, he does not want "to meddle" in Colombia's internal affairs. But he invited the guerrillas to seek "a peaceful solution," saying he hopes "no more blood is shed."

Castro reiterated his defense of socialism and that this system is not yet "dead." He insisted that capitalism is responsible for underdevelopment and that 80 percent of the Earth's nearly 6 billion inhabitants live in poverty.

He went on to say that "15 percent of the population receives 75 percent of the income" in the world. He then asked: "Where does our wealth end up?" He blamed capitalism for poisoning rivers, the sea, and the atmosphere. Because of this, he said, "we are the proud champions of socialism." He said he will not resign because he will not betray "the homeland, the revolution, or socialism."

Castro said that his country "is open to foreign investment" without restrictions and announced that, although he has taken "severe" economic measures, they are not "shock" measures like those applied in other Latin American countries.

He admitted that Cuba "is experiencing difficulties" because "of the shortage but our resources are equitably distributed," with health, education, and nutrition getting priority treatment.

Castro and his group are scheduled to leave Cartagena de Indias—a city which Castro said is very similar to Havana—at 1600 local time (2100 GMT) for his home country.

Explains How Meeting With Gaviria Came About

PY1108222493 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1834 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Antonio Jose in Cartagena, Colombia—monitored in progress]

[Text] [Begin Castro recording]...Rio Group. We talked as usual but time was very short and we both regretted we could not continue talking about certain issues. Then I said, we could meet in another place, maybe in Cuba but perhaps it would not be so easy for him [President Gaviria] to travel to Cuba. I was willing to go any place to talk. Then after a few days I received a suggestion to visit Cartagena on the 20th and 21st. You understand that Cartagena has many things in common with Cuba, and with Havana through the centuries. They were strategic points in this hemisphere. Treasures of all kinds went through them and there was great coordination through history between Cartagena and Havana. I liked the suggestion of Cartagena very much but it is not so easy for me to leave the country all the time because I have a great deal of work. Then there was the idea of visiting La Paz and to avoid making two trips I waited for the La Paz event and I begged the president to change the dates, instead of the 20th and 21st to allow me to make a stopover on my return from La Paz. This is what happened and this is how the meeting was arranged. [end recording]

The meeting will conclude in a few minutes here in the house of ilustrious guests in the Manzanillo fort. The two presidents are now having lunch with their foreign ministers. They will say goodbye here at the site where the Colombian and Cuban flags were raised. Castro will return to Havana and President Gaviria to Bogota.

Refuses To Reject Guerrilla Activities

PA1208021593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] The topic that everyone expected to hear in Cartagena de Indias during the news conference that Fidel Castro held before departing for his country never materialized. There was no flat rejection of the guerrilla activities that have devastated Colombia for the past 40 years.

After 42 hours of silence, Castro received over 150 journalists at the House of Illustrious Guests in Manzanillo in Cartagena de Indias and answered 18 questions.

Castro returns to Cuba with his briefcase full of suggestions made by President Cesar Gaviria about democratization and opening.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] You are in power, but politically alone. Do you feel alone and tired? Are the Cuban people already tired of you?

[Castro] I cannot answer for the Cuban people. You will have to ask them this question. Please do not think I feel like a slave. I do not know if the Cuban people are tired. I have never fought for power. I have pursued specific goals. I have worked for a large number of years. The least that anyone who has worked so much deserves is to rest. A person is entitled to demand the right to rest under normal and easy circumstances. Should anyone demand his rest under difficult conditions, he might appear to be a defector. I am not and do not want to look like a defector. [end recording]

Castro departed for Cuba at 2000 today. Clearly, he is no longer the strong and vigorous man he once was. He is tired and knows he has but a few years to live.

Comments on Oil Sales

PA1208015493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Text] Fidel Castro has departed but left behind a hornets' nest in an uproar, so to speak. Unexpectedly, he said Colombia sells crude oil to Cuba, either directly or indirectly, and despite the U.S.-imposed economic blockade.

In Cartagena de Indias, Presidents Cesar Gaviria and Fidel Castro were together at all times. They spoke about everything, except oil, according to Fidel. He admitted that Colombian oil has been flowing to Cuba, either directly or indirectly, for quite some time. This is contradictory, considering that Colombia is a good ally of the United States.

[Begin Castro recording] In addition, we have always bought crude oil from Colombia, either directly or indirectly and without any problem. But we did not discuss it. [end recording]

In Barranquilla, Mines and Energy Minister Guido Nule had this to say about what could be one of the blunders that Castro's visit has inflicted on Colombia's foreign relations.

[Begin recording] [Nule] This is not as strange as it sounds. Colombia has been selling crude oil to many countries in the world and to the highest bidder. Colombia is not affiliated with any one international organization and consequently sells its oil freely. There is nothing unusual about selling oil to Cuba.

[Unidentified reporter] Could the U.S. blockade later cause Colombia trouble over selling oil to Cuba?

[Nule] Well, the truth is that I would rather leave international policy matters like this one in the hands of authorized government spokesmen. Anyway, I do not think there is any problem. Not only that, we had a little trouble filling up the Cuban airliner in Cartagena de Indias. We had to use fuel supplied by other than international companies. In this particular instance, we used Terpel of Barranquilla. Again, I do not see why there should be any problem at all.

[Reporter] Could a corporation buy oil from Colombia and then sell it to Cuba?

[Nule] Absolutely, yes. [end recording]

Castro Departs Colombia

PA1108232193 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 2226 GMT 11 Aug 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro's visit to Colombia ended uneventfully this afternoon. Castro spoke for several hours with President Cesar Gaviria.

The Cuban president said he does not want to meddle in Colombia's internal affairs, such as subversion, and that he is not a judge. He said he is aware that Cuba's diplomatic relations with Colombia are not full but that they are formal.

At 2002 GMT two Soviet-made Cubana de Aviacion aircraft took off from Rafael Nunez International Airport. One of them had Castro aboard, thus ending a 48-hour visit. As scheduled, the Colombian enterprise (?Tercel) supplied fuel for the planes.

Castro, during the extensive news conference he held for 60 journalists accredited in Colombia, said he is willing to make economic reforms in his country and talk with the United States on one condition, that the United States respect the peoples' self-determination.

Colombian Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin, who bade Castro farewell, said she is satisfied and that the results of this visit by the Cuban leader, who had not visited Colombia for 45 years, will soon be evident.

Castro left at 2002 GMT. Gaviria, in turn, left the airport at 2050 GMT after canceling a news conference at the last minute with the media, whose members moved to the House for Distinguished Guests at Manzanillo Fort, the site of the talks between the two presidents.

Castro, who told a number of jokes during the one hour and 20 minutes news conference, said he feels alone and old but that his duty to his people comes first.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Report to Congress Delayed Until 12 Aug

PA1208021893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0105 GMT 12 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Quito, 11 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Official sources have reported that Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen will present his first government report on 12 August, once the Congress concludes the election of its main authorities on the night of 11 August.

Independent Deputy Bruno Frixone was elected vice president of the Congress after he obtained 39 votes, the minimum number required to occupy the post.

The session started after a more than one hour delay and was about to be suspended because of a lack of quorum. Later, however, the quorum was obtained with the attendance of 39 legislators. [passage omitted]

The legislators will receive the president on 12 August and he will report on his work during the first of his four years in government.

Duran-Ballen, who should have read his report on 10 August, will go to the Congress at 1800 (2300 GMT) on 12 August to comply with the law, presidency sources told NOTIMEX.

This is the third time in the past three years that a head of state has not been able to present his report on 10 August—Ecuador's independence day—as established by the Constitution.